

National Park System and are entrusted with its preservation as the United States marks the beginning of the second century of the National Park System. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System; and be it further

*Resolved* that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate April 15, 2017, through April 23, 2017, as "National Park Week" in Louisiana and encourages the people of the United States and the world to visit and experience the treasured national parks of the state of Louisiana; and be it further

*Resolved* that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-27. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana recognizing Wednesday, April 26, 2017, as the fifth annual Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Day at the state capitol and express support of the Louisiana Energy Export Association, LNG exports, and the streamlining and expedition of permit approval for pending export facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

Whereas, plentiful natural gas supplies and unprecedented advances in technology have provided a historic opportunity for the United States to achieve energy self-sufficiency while creating jobs and wealth for our economy; and

Whereas, pioneering exploration and extraction methods have opened such vast natural gas resources to development in areas, such as the Haynesville Shale, that demand on United States natural gas markets can grow with little impact on domestic prices; and

Whereas, the Department of Energy estimates domestic natural gas production levels will increase by over 50% by 2050; and

Whereas, global demand for liquefied natural gas is expected to grow significantly over the next two decades, with Louisiana poised to play a major role in meeting such demand; and

Whereas, expanding markets for United States natural gas is consistent with national trade and security policy, because failure to expand liquefied natural gas exports would force our allies to continue to rely on regimes that are hostile to United States interests for their energy needs; and

Whereas, over 100 cargoes of LNG have already departed for international markets from Louisiana facilities; and

Whereas, continued growth in liquefied natural gas exports will create tens of thousands of construction and operations jobs in Louisiana; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Energy Export Association was formed in 2017 as a nonprofit grassroots organization to serve as a unifying voice for Louisiana's LNG exporters with the mission of supporting the exports of natural gas and educating public and policy leaders of the economic benefits LNG exports will bring to the United States; and

Whereas, Louisiana Energy Export Association member companies plan to invest over \$60 billion in Louisiana over the next decade, creating over 20,000 jobs, economic opportunity, and expanding the Louisiana tax base; and

Whereas, liquefied natural gas exports would provide incentives for new infrastructure investments worth billions of dollars

and generate royalties and local tax revenues directly in communities across the state; and

Whereas, a diverse coalition of Louisiana LNG producers, energy and petroleum companies, business groups, service companies, and others have expressed their support for LNG exports. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Wednesday, April 26, 2017, as the fifth annual Liquefied Natural Gas Day at the state capitol and express support of the Louisiana Energy Export Association, LNG exports, and the streamlining and expedition of permit approval for pending export facilities so that the economic benefits of LNG exports can be magnified throughout the state of Louisiana, as well as the United States; and be it further

*Resolved* that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-28. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to eliminate the "widows' tax" on the surviving spouses of retired U.S. military service members; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

Whereas, Retired military service members may participate in the Survivor Benefit Program. The Survivor Benefit Program is an optional annuity designed to provide a lifetime monthly benefit to the surviving spouse of a service member. The annuity payments offset part of the retirement income lost as a result of the service member's death. The annuity's premium is paid by the retired service member through a deduction from their monthly retirement benefit check; and

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides a tax-free monthly benefit to the surviving spouses of eligible military service members who died as a result of service-related injuries or diseases. The Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program's earned benefit expresses a measure of thanks from a grateful nation to a fallen soldier's family. Benefits start with a standard monthly allowance for the surviving spouse and additional benefits are provided under certain circumstances; and

Whereas, Under federal law, a surviving spouse is punished for having both a paid annuity and earned indemnity benefits. When a surviving spouse of a military retiree is eligible to receive a monthly annuity payment through the Survivor Benefit Program and has been awarded a monthly benefit through the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program, the retirement annuity is offset dollar-for-dollar by the amount of benefits received because of their service-related death. This offset is commonly referred to throughout the veterans' community as the "widows' tax" and can cause \$14,580 a year or more in reduced payments to beneficiaries; and

Whereas, The indemnity compensation should be in addition to the retirement annuity rather than in place of it. The rationale and qualifications for these two programs are wholly different. The Survivor Benefit Program is a personal financial decision made by a military retiree to provide some degree of financial security to their surviving spouse while the Veterans Affairs indemnity program is an earned benefit awarded following a service-connected death. The Survivor Benefit Program's mandated premium payments set it apart from the indemnity program's survivor benefits, and the

government should not be taking the annuity benefits bought by service members for their families. Congress should ensure that the families who have given so much in the service of their country receive all of their military survivor benefits and retirement annuities. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives*, That we urge the Congress of the United States to eliminate the "widows' tax" on the surviving spouses of retired U.S. military service members; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 39. A bill to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-75).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1190. A bill to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1191. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to refine how Medicare pays for orthotics and prosthetics and to improve beneficiary experience and outcomes with orthotic and prosthetic care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1192. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for pro-rated charges to entitlement to educational assistance under Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for certain licensure and certification tests and national tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1193. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for employer-provided job training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1194. A bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins for digestive and inherited metabolic disorders under Federal health programs and private health insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 1195. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr.

COTTON, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1196. A bill to expand the capacity and capability of the ballistic missile defense system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1197. A bill to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1198. A bill to protect individuals who are eligible for increase pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 1199. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 1200. A bill to require that certain prevailing wage determinations be made using representative statistical sample techniques; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 1201. A bill to allow individuals living in areas without qualified health plans offered through an Exchange to have similar access to health insurance coverage as members of Congress and congressional staff; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 175. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Con. Res. 17. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should withdraw from the Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 122

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to provide for nonpreemption of measures by State and local governments to divest from entities that en-

gage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 319

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 446

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 516

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 516, a bill to provide grants to assist States in developing and implementing plans to address cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain provisions of the Heartland, Habitat, Harvest, and Horticulture Act of 2008 relating to timber.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 569

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 654, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 693

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 712

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 712, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the