

the whistle on fraud and misconduct that was harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: “Resolved, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge” (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904–37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution of the United States, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2020, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation passed on July 30, 1778 (relating to whistleblowers), by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to “blow the whistle” to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY, AMERICA’S BIRTHDAY, AND THE HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSES AND WORKERS THAT MAKE UP THE FIREWORKS INDUSTRY

Mr. ROUNDS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 635

Whereas, on July 3, 1776, Founding Father John Adams wrote to Abigail Adams expressing his belief that the signing of the Declaration of Independence should be commemo-

rated “with Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more”;

Whereas, on July 4, 1777, reflecting the vision of John Adams, fireworks were set off in Philadelphia as part of a celebration to commemorate Independence Day;

Whereas throughout our history, Americans in cities and towns large and small have celebrated the birth of our great Nation, with 16,000 fireworks displays on Independence Day in 2019 alone;

Whereas an estimated 49 million Americans traveled on vacation to these cities and towns during the Fourth of July holiday in 2019;

Whereas 49 States plus the District of Columbia allow some or all types of consumer fireworks;

Whereas retail sales of fireworks have skyrocketed in recent years;

Whereas Americans spend more than \$1 billion on fireworks annually, and close to \$900 million is spent on consumer fireworks alone;

Whereas the United States fireworks industry is committed to promoting the legal and safe handling and use of all fireworks;

Whereas for the first time in over 10 years, Mount Rushmore, our Nation’s “Shrine of Democracy”, will resume using fireworks in 2020;

Whereas the fireworks industry serves as a livelihood for many small business owners and operators across the country;

Whereas fireworks celebrations are important economic drivers for cities and towns across the country; and

Whereas many cities and towns across the country are canceling or are considering canceling their annual Fourth of July celebrations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic importance of fireworks displays in the United States, particularly in annual Independence Day celebrations;

(2) recognizes that the fireworks industry brings joy to communities and neighborhoods across the country and is good for our national psyche;

(3) supports the commitment to bring fireworks back to our Nation’s “Shrine of Democracy” at Mount Rushmore; and

(4) urges cities, towns, counties, and other municipalities to save the Fourth of July by reconsidering postponing or canceling their Fourth of July celebrations, so that Americans can enjoy our Nation’s birthday while adhering to appropriate social distancing guidelines.

WOUNDED VETERANS RECREATION ACT

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 342, S. 327.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 327) to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 327

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 “Wounded Veterans Recreation Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PASSES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 805(b) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DISABILITY DISCOUNT.—The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without charge and for the lifetime of the passholder, to the following:

“(A) Any United States citizen or person domiciled in the United States who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled, within the meaning of the term ‘disability’ under section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102), if the citizen or person provides adequate proof of the disability and such citizenship or residency.

“(B) Any veteran who has been found to have a service-connected disability under title 38, United States Code.”.

Mr. SASSE. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 327), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 23; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Wilson nomination; further, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Wilson nomination.

PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate,
at 6:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday,
June 23, 2020, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by
the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID REIMER, OF OHIO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ERIC J. SOSKIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE CALVIN L. SCOVEL, RESIGNED.