

10. Previous CBO estimate: None.

11. Estimate prepared by: Federal Cost Estimate: Kent Christensen, Victoria Fraider, Raymond Hall, and Amy Plapp prepared the estimates affecting the Department of Defense; they can be reached at 226-2840. Kathy Gramp (226-2860) prepared the estimate for the Naval Petroleum Reserve. Deborah Reis (226-2860) prepared the estimate for the Panama Canal Commission. Wayne Boyington (226-2820) prepared the estimates for the costs of changes to civilian retirement programs.

State and local government impact: Leo Lex and Karen McVey (226-2885).

Private sector impact: Neil Singer (226-2900).

12. Estimate approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, for those who may be listening, I believe there had originally been a vote at 9:15 that the leader had announced and now that the amendment, which was the SIMPSON amendment, has been disposed of and agreed to with the second-degree amendment that was accepted, so as far as I know—and the Senator from Idaho may want to add to this—there will be no vote on this amendment at 9:15 tomorrow morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct; that vote was vitiated.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, we are certainly in agreement that the vote which was ordered has been vitiated, or has been dealt with. We have not yet received final word from the majority leader as to whether or not he wishes to still have an early vote. We will know that very shortly.

At this point I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEDAL OF HONOR NOMINEES

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to seven unsung heroes of World War II. Although a half-century in the making, it is never too late to honor the bravery and heroism of our men and women in uniform. I view the nomination of seven African-American World War II heroes for the Medal of Honor with much admiration and pride. This is an honor that should have been bestowed many decades ago. The award acknowledges a job well done and is absolutely well deserved.

A 15-month study conducted by a team of military historians reviewed the nation's archives and interviewed veterans to find out why no black service member received the Medal of Honor during World War II. Nine black

soldiers were awarded the second-highest honor—the Distinguished Service Cross. I was surprised, however, to learn that the study found no evidence that any African-American soldier in World War II was ever nominated for the Medal of Honor, though commanders, comrades and archival records indicate that at least four of the seven nominees had been recommended. This same report found evidence that the segregation of units by race often complicated training, exacerbated relations between officers and enlisted men and their units, and undermined the morale of these units in both subtle and obvious ways.

The Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on National Security approved a provision in the Defense Authorization bill that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to award the Medal of Honor to African-American former service members who have been found by the Secretary of the Army to have distinguished themselves by gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while serving in the U.S. Army during WWII.

It is truly unfortunate that only one of the seven nominees—Vernon J. Baker—is still living. On April 5, 1945, then First Lieutenant Baker led a platoon over "Hill X" in Italy. Along the way, he and his men destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts and four dugouts while the Germans rained bullets down on them. Out of 25 men, 7 Americans survived while 26 Germans were killed in the action. "Hill X" had to be taken in order to capture a castle that guarded the town of Montignoso along Highway 1. The route was key to the Allies push north and its capture helped to hastened the end of WWII. First Lieutenant Baker received the Distinguished Service Cross—our Nation's second highest award—for his actions. And now at long last he will receive the appropriate recognition—the Medal of Honor the highest honor that we can bestow.

Mr. Baker, although raised in Wyoming, moved to St. Maries, ID, in 1987 because he enjoys the State's hunting and great outdoor opportunities. I am proud of and thankful for the many sacrifices that our men and women in uniform have made in the past and continue to make around the world. We are certainly proud that Mr. Baker now resides in the State of Idaho, and that he and the other nominees will now rightfully receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

#### HONORING THE DASCHLES CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Sebastian and Elizabeth Daschle, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 16, 1996. Their lives and strong commitment to one another serve as an example to the entire Nation.

Betty Meiers and Sebastian "Dash" Daschle were married on a mild winter day in Roscoe SD. Two days later, they were hit by the worst blizzard of the year. Together, the Daschles weathered the storm and have continued to stand beside one another through 50 years of surprises and joys.

The Daschles devotion to one another began early, with Betty waiting for her sweetheart to return home from World War II so they could be married. Since fabric was scarce at the time, Betty's wedding dress and the flower girl's dress were made out of a parachute brought home from the war. While the fabric was unconventional, it was plentiful and provided enough material for Betty's dress to have a long, elegant train. Betty and Dash took their vows on the day of Betty's parents 25th anniversary and, for 30 years, the two couples jointly celebrated their happiness. Clearly, commitment and lasting love run in the family.

Following the wedding, the young couple moved to Aberdeen, SD, to make their home. After an unsuccessful search for a place to live, they had to install plumbing on the top floor of a house to create a makeshift apartment. Betty's father and brother built the Daschles' first house in 1948. In 1952, they built a bigger home on the same lot and have happily lived there ever since.

Through the years, Dash worked as a bookkeeper for Nelson Auto Electric, and eventually worked his way to become a part-owner of the business. The Daschles are proud parents of four boys—including my friend and colleague, the distinguished minority leader Senator TOM DASCHLE. The Daschles now delight each day in the joy of their grandchildren.

For the Daschles, a promise made was a promise kept. Their dedication to their vows and commitment to strong family ties serve as a model for families across America.

I congratulate the Daschles on this achievement, and wish them continued happiness in their lives together.

#### SALUTE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, when I think of Iowa, I envision lush, rolling hills; wide, blue skies; and rich, black soil. Located in the heartland of America, Iowa's bounteous fields and streams feed the world. I'm sure most people across the country and throughout the world associate my State with its exceptional agricultural products and productive farmland.

But today, I am going to share with America a different chapter of the Iowa story. Perhaps one that many already have read about or seen on the Big Screen—and that is, Iowa's contributions to film making and the performing arts. A handful of our Iowa-born friends have risen to celebrity status on TV, on the silver screen, and on stage.