

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 1996, in open session, to receive an update on United States participation in implementation force mission in Bosnia.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Thursday, August 1, 1996, session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting a hearing on aviation security challenges.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 1996, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on the implementation of section 2001 of Public Law 104-19, the Emergency Timber Salvage Amendment.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to meet Thursday, August 1, immediately following the first vote in The President's Room, S-216, The Capitol, to consider the nominations of Nils J. Diaz and Edward McGaffigan, Jr., each nominated by the President to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a committee resolution on a GSA public building proposal.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 1996, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 1996, at 10 a.m. to hold an executive business meeting.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 1996 at 9:30 a.m. to hold an open hearing on Intelligence Matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 1996 for purposes of conducting a Subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the oversight hearing is to consider the propriety of a commercial lease by the Bureau of Land Management at Lake Havasu, AZ, including its consistency with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Department of the Interior land use policies.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING THE BRAVERY OF THE 168th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the valor and courage of the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion, which celebrates the unveiling of its commemorative monument at Fort Devens, MA, later this month. During World War II, the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion was composed entirely of New Englanders, many of them residents of the State I have the good fortune to represent in this body: the great State of Maine. This brave group of soldiers defended freedom and democracy from the will of tyranny in the darkest days of World War II and the Vietnam conflict. As they reunite to remember their success and pay homage to their fallen comrades, I'd like to take a moment today to remember the unit's heroism.

Mr. President, any retelling of the pivotal events of the Second World War in Europe must include the deeds of the 168th. They were there with General Patton in July 1944 when the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy as part of the D-day Invasion. For 10 hard but glorious months thereafter, the 168th provided the American ground forces in Europe with invaluable logistic support and an iron will that was crucial in turning back the ruthless advance of the Nazis across Europe.

Perhaps no single mission depicts the heroism, bravery, and grit of the 168th more clearly than its performance in the Ardennes offensive, also known as the Battle of the Bulge. When the forces of Hitler launched their des-

perate, last-ditch offensive into the heart of the Allied line during the winter of 1944, the 168th displayed the resiliency and courage for which it has come to be known. In hopes of fracturing the Allied line into its American and British components, the Nazi Army focused all of its lethal energy on breaking through the Allied line in Belgium. However, in doing so, the Nazis ran into the 168th, and the 168th stood fast. With their defiant stand at St. Vith, Belgium, the 168th was able to slow the Nazi assault and then provide the larger American force with the logistical support necessary to repel the Nazi war machine once and for all.

In remaining at St. Vith, the 168th endured the loss of half its personnel to casualty or Nazi apprehension. Yet, with the loss of every comrade, the depleted 168th exhibited even firmer resolve to drive the Nazis back across the line. They did so for each other, and they did so for America. But most of all, they refused to succumb to the Nazis because at that moment, the cause of freedom depended upon them. For its valor in battle and efficiency in duty, the 168th was deservedly awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation by the U.S. Army. The 168th was also awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre, which was given to foreign forces by the Belgian Government for the defense of its nation during World War II.

As if the heroics of the 168th in World War II were not enough, it also served with distinction during the Vietnam conflict, 20 years later. Faced with the daunting task of establishing logistical lines of support in the harrowing jungles of Southeast Asia, the 168th again performed its tasks masterfully under heavy fire. For its repeated acts of bravery, the 168th received the Valorous Unit Citation and the Meritorious Unit Citation, and in doing so, reaffirmed its status as an elite unit of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. President, as the remaining members of the 168th gather to unveil their monument at Fort Devens, I think it is appropriate that we all remember the intrepid nature displayed again and again by the members of the 168th when they were most needed. Whether they were ordered to forge roadways and cross rivers in the snowy countryside of Western Europe, or devise ways to destroy the vast tunnel systems underneath the steamy jungles of Southeast Asia, the 168th has performed its duties with honor and distinction. It is due to the heroism and sacrifice of people like the members of the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion that Americans enjoy the fruits of freedom today, and for that, we all owe them a deep and heartfelt debt of gratitude.

In honor of the contributions made by the 168th in the defense of freedom, I ask that the declarations honoring the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion made by the Governors of Maine and Massachusetts, as well as the Corps of Engineers poem be placed in the