

contributions to global education, and more than a half century of service to humanity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to provide financial security to family farm and small business owners by ending the unfair practice of taxing someone at death.

S. 215

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 215, a bill to authorize funding assistance for the States for the discharge of homeland security activities by the National Guard.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to promote elder justice, and for other purposes.

S. 442

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 442, a bill to provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan, and for other purposes.

S. 478

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 478, a bill to grant a Federal charter Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) to provide for the protection of voluntarily furnished confidential information, and for other purposes.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend subchapter III of chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to include Federal prosecutors within the definition of a law enforcement officer, and for other purposes.

S. 736

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen enforcement of provisions relating to animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 835

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 835, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide student loan borrowers with a choice of lender for loan consolidation, to provide notice regarding loan consolidation, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 894, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 902

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 902, a bill to declare, under the authority of Congress under Article I, section 8, of the Constitution to "provide and maintain a Navy", a national policy for the naval force structure required in order to "provide for the common defense" of the United States throughout the 21st century.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 1037

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of all oral anticancer drugs.

S. 1092

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1092, a bill to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

S. 1142

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from New

Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1142, a bill to provide disadvantaged children with access to dental services.

S. 1289

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1289, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after Paul Wellstone.

S. 1303

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1303, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and otherwise revise the Medicare Program to reform the method of paying for covered drugs, drug administration services, and chemotherapy support services.

S. 1314

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1314, a bill to expedite procedures for hazardous fuels reduction activities on National Forest System lands established from the public domain and other public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, to improve the health of National Forest System lands established from the public domain and other public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 1414

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1414, a bill to restore second amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

S. 1419

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, a bill to support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care.

S. CON. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 40, a concurrent resolution designating August 7, 2003, as "National Purple Heart Recognition Day".

S. RES. 167

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 167, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, which has been a significant part of the social, economic, and cultural heritage of the United States and many other nations and a leading force for product and manufacturing innovation throughout the 20th century.

AMENDMENT NO. 1318

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1318 proposed to H.R. 2555, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1445. A bill to provide criminal penalties for false personation of a military officer for purposes of harassing military families and to clarify the false personation statute with respect to officers and employees of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to an important measure that Senators GRAHAM, SCHUMER, CORNYN, and I have introduced entitled The Military Family Hoax Prevention Act. As our country concludes major combat activities in Operation Iraqi Freedom, we all stand tall with pride over the dedication, courage, and valor displayed by the men and women of our Armed Forces.

We all are grateful to the men and women of the U.S. military who selflessly serve our country. They have answered the call of our Commander in Chief to go abroad and defend the freedoms and values we cherish here at home. While carrying out their mission, they have acted admirably during the liberation of an enslaved nation, and continue to serve our country honorably. These men and women deserve our profound gratitude.

As we watch the soldiers returning home from deployment, some from extended tours of duty, I am reminded of the personal sacrifice these men and women make while they are gone. These men and women leave behind family and friends who undoubtedly worry constantly about their loved ones on deployment. In many instances, family members are not able to know of the day-to-day safety of their loved ones during deployment. This feeling of helplessness was aptly described by the brother of Jessica Lynch upon her return to West Virginia when he discussed her family's desire to learn any bit of information following her capture.

It has come to my attention that during Operation Iraqi Freedom some

military families received cruel hoaxes concerning their deployed family members in Iraq. On three separate occasions that I am aware of, families of service men and women here in the United States received telephone calls from sick pranksters telling them that their family members serving in Iraq had either been killed in battle or taken prisoner of war.

You can imagine the devastation and agony of the families who received these malicious telephone calls. These families were forced into a desperate scramble to learn information about the fate of their loved ones. These hoaxes require the military to dedicate resources to provide information to military family members.

Let me talk briefly about one specific hoax and the potentially devastating consequences that can flow from it. A family in Arizona received a telephone call that a family member had been killed in Iraq. After contacting the military, the family was told that only the military notifies families in these instances, and that they do so in person, not over the telephone. The military told the family that they had no information that their family member, the soldier, was killed and that they would try to learn more.

The military discovered that this telephone call was a cruel hoax and arranged for the soldier to call home from a satellite telephone to reassure his family. Unfortunately, the soldier later wrote to his family and told them that another soldier who was transporting a satellite telephone to him so that he could call home had been killed while trying to deliver the telephone.

This type of action cannot go unpunished. The current false impersonation statute does not punish someone who falsely impersonates a military employee engaging in this type of conduct. This legislation the Military Family Hoax Prevention Act, would remedy this loophole in the current law. It would prohibit those who derive some perverted pleasure terrorizing family members who intensely wait for word from abroad from their military family members.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1447. A bill to establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for bioterrorism preparedness in the border area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill with Senators MCCAIN, FEINSTEIN, and CORNYN entitled the Border Health Security Act of 2003. This bill addresses the tremendous health problems confronting our Nation's southwestern border.

The United States-Mexico border region is defined in the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission authorizing

legislation as the area of land 100 kilometers, or 62.5 miles, north and south of the international boundary. It stretches 2,000 miles from California, through Arizona and New Mexico to the southern tip of Texas and is estimated to have a population of 12 million residents.

The border region comprises two sovereign nations, 25 Native American tribes, and four States in the United States and six States in Mexico.

Why should we provide some focus to this geographic region? The situation along the border is among the most dire in the country. In the past, we have recognized problems with other regions, through the Denali, Delta, and Appalachian commissions, and have provided targeted funding to those areas. The U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, legislation I sponsored with Senators MCCAIN, SIMON and HUTCHISON, was created for the same reasons and annually receives about \$4 million in funding that is matched by \$1 million from the Mexican government for administrative purposes to improve international cooperation and agreements to tackle health problems in the region. However, we need to take the next step and provide resources to address the problems.

In the border region, three of the ten poorest counties in the United States are located in the border area, 21 of the counties have been designated as economically distressed, approximately 430,000 people live in 1,200 colonias in Texas and New Mexico, which are unincorporated communities that are characterized by substandard housing, unsafe public drinking water, and wastewater systems, very high unemployment, and the lower per capita income as a region in the Nation.

The result is a health system that confronts tremendous health problems with little or no resources. Although it is difficult to access the health needs along the border since data is more often collected on a statewide basis, we do know that diabetes, cancer, infectious disease such as tuberculosis, and health disease rates are far greater than the national average but the residents in the area have the highest uninsured rates in the country.

In fact, the States of Texas, New Mexico, and California rank as the States with the three worst uninsured rates in the country to begin with. Arizona is not much better and ranks 46th in the Nation, just ahead of Louisiana and Oklahoma. The uninsured rates of these States are: 23.5 percent in Texas, 20.7 percent in New Mexico, 19.5 percent in California, and 18.3 percent in Arizona.

However, the figures along the border are even worse, as the rates of uninsured are higher still than that in the four States overall. Uninsured rates in many border counties are estimated to be above 30 percent and as high as 50 percent in certain communities.

As the U.S.-Mexico Border Commission notes, "The border is characterized by weaknesses in the border health