

The COLA will be the same as the increase provided to Social Security recipients, which is projected to be approximately 2.9 percent.

It is vital that veterans' disability compensation rates keep pace with the increasing cost of living. Without an increase to offset the effects of inflation, veterans and their families would lose the value of this important benefit.

Passage of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006 is the least that Congress can do to help disabled veterans provide adequately for their families. Many times, VA disability compensation is a major, and in some cases the sole, source of income for a veteran and his or her family. For those who gave so much to this nation, we owe them this sign of gratitude.

In closing, I thank all of my colleagues for their support for our Nation's veterans. I anticipate swift passage of this important legislation by the House of Representatives.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5034) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction to title 38, United States Code)

On page 4, after line 8, add the following:

**SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (as added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

The bill (S. 2562), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2562

*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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006".

**SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2006, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2006, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2007.

**SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

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**DETAINEE INTERROGATION AGREEMENT**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments we will be closing. I will have a brief closing statement about what the plans will be over the next several days.

While we have a moment, I will refer to what happened about an hour or an hour and a half ago on a very important piece of legislation we have been working on for about 2 months, almost 3 months now. It is legislation which results from what we all know now as the Hamdan decision that the Supreme Court presented to us specifically several months ago. As a result of that decision, it became incumbent to pass legislation in this Senate to clarify the results of that decision but, most importantly, to address the issues surrounding the military tribunals, the terrorist tribunals, the military commissions. Those are, in essence, the court system, the commissions, the way we deal with enemy combatants or terrorists.

The issue before the Senate is legislation that we must pass this coming week just as soon as possible for a number of reasons, but primarily we

have detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who cannot be tried. Among these terrorists are people such as the lead Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind, or alleged mastermind, behind the events of September 11.

In addition, what we all now understand is the Hamdan decision made it again incumbent upon the Senate to act in order to be able to continue a very important program of interrogation so we can get information so our Government will be equipped with the tools we need to obtain information from terrorists that can be lifesaving, that can prevent another attack, a terrorist attack.

What has been challenging over the last several months is coming to an agreement which we reached today among colleagues who had devoted a lot of time in this Senate on this issue, an issue which is tough from a legal standpoint, but an agreement within this Senate, working hand in hand with the administration. I was pleased to join my colleagues, along with the National Security Adviser, Steve Hadley, along with a Member from the House of Representatives, as well as MITCH MCCONNELL, our whip, as well as JOHN WARNER, chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, and Senator GRAHAM, to announce an agreement that meets the key test of our conference.

The first priority, as I have spoken again and again over the last several days, was the importance of meeting these goals. And they were met.

No. 1, protect America by ensuring our highly valuable CIA program will be preserved, a program of interrogation which has delivered information that has allowed the United States to stop terrorist activity. That will be preserved.

The second goal, a criterion that I have set out and the President has set out as well, is whatever we develop in this Senate must guarantee that classified sources and methods, classified information—all sources and methods will not be disclosed to the terrorist detainees. It seems obvious to the American people, obvious to me, that we do not want to be giving classified information to a terrorist or his attorney, who will turn around and share that with the larger terrorist world that is out there.

A third criteria or a third result of the fact that this legislation has been addressed in the way it has is an agreement that has the impact of ensuring that the military will be able to begin to try the terrorists, the enemy combatants, the detainees in our custody today.

So it protects a program which we know is important, No. 1. No. 2, it prevents classified information from being given to terrorists. No. 3, it ensures that the military can begin to try these terrorists once this legislation is signed by the President.

I congratulate my colleagues. We have a long way to go, though, because

that is the first major step of a product of about 2 months of work. With that work and the time they have spent, the dedication and focus, it means that once that information can be shared with Democrats and Republicans throughout the Senate and they take a look at it, the fact that it has been so carefully vetted, we should be able to address it in the course of next week.

I had a brief conversation with the Democratic leader, who has begun to look at that legislation. He, too, is confident we can address this issue next week. The House of Representatives has to address it, as well, go to conference—if we don't pass the same bill—and then get it to the President as soon as we possibly can. So it is very good news. That agreement was reached today.

There are a number of other items that have to be addressed, but there were three major items that were the real gist, the substance of that agreement.

#### DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3127 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3127) to impose sanctions against individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, to support measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations, and to support peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Lugar substitute at the desk be agreed to, the bill as amended be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the appropriate place in the RECORD as if read.

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

The amendment (No. 5033), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 3127), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have several other issues to deal with, but that particular issue on Sudan and sanctions surrounding Sudan leads me to comment on the great tragedy that is occurring in the Darfur region in western Sudan.

I have had the opportunity to be in that region in a number of the refugee

camps along that western border of Sudan and Chad, the country just west of Sudan, a country to which many of these refugees are fleeing.

Things are getting worse in Darfur. We have heard a lot about it in the last 2½ years. On this floor, a little over 2 years ago, we called it a genocide. Shortly thereafter, the administration also agreed it is genocide. And that is exactly what it is. We do not know exactly how many people have been killed, but around 200,000 people have been killed in this genocide and probably 2 million people displaced from their homes. Things are getting worse. It deserves the attention of this body. We focused on it at a very early time. We continue to focus on it, but again, I think we are going to have to focus on it more and more.

An envoy was appointed by the President maybe yesterday or the day before. I think that is a very positive move in that regard.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 574.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 574) recognizing the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation on the occasion of its 70th anniversary and saluting the outstanding service of its members and staff on behalf of the agricultural community and the people of North Carolina.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 574) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 574

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation was founded on March 2, 1936, in Greenville, North Carolina, during the Great Depression, a period of national frustration and economic disaster;

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation was established to organize North Carolina's farm families and to maximize their ability to engage in national, State, and local policy debates that affect North Carolina agriculture;

Whereas at its first annual meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, on July 30, 1936, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation had slightly over 2,000 members from 24 counties;

Whereas in 2005, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation was composed of approximately 490,000 member families from all 100

counties of North Carolina, making it the second largest State farm bureau in the United States;

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation created a Women's Program in 1942 and a Young Farmer and Rancher Program in the 1970s to encourage leadership development among its members;

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation is committed to advancing agricultural education in North Carolina through its R. Flake Shaw Scholarship Fund, established in 1958, and the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders, founded in 1984, which help ensure that the young men and women of North Carolina are well prepared for careers in agriculture;

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation created and continues to sponsor the Ag-In-The-Classroom initiative to introduce children to North Carolina agriculture and to improve the quality of teachers in North Carolina schools;

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation's visionary Board of Directors developed numerous initiatives that enable farmers to effectively produce and sell their products, such as the organization's marketing program, and that provide farmers with access to necessary farm resources, such as the tires, batteries, and accessories service;

Whereas in 1953, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation founded the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Mutual Insurance Company, which is North Carolina's largest domestic insurance company;

Whereas the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Mutual Insurance Company is composed entirely of farmers; and

Whereas the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation is a true grassroots organization dedicated to ensuring that agriculture remains North Carolina's number 1 industry through the organization's unique policy development process and active legislative and regulatory advocacy programs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation on the occasion of its 70th anniversary and salutes the outstanding service of its members and staff on behalf of the agricultural community and the people of North Carolina.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006, AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 22. I further ask consent 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, and further that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate it be in order for Senators to introduce bills on Friday until 11 a.m.; provided further that a bill to be introduced by Senator FRIST or his designee be considered as read a first time and that there be an objection to its second reading. I further ask consent that following the pledge, the Senate then stand in adjournment until the hour of 2 p.m. on Monday, September 25. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of