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For further information, please contact Scott Miller at (202) 224-5488 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "NATO: A Strategic Concept for Transatlantic Security."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009, at 3 p.m., to hold a members briefing entitled "Status Report on Iran."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Keeping America's Families Safe: Reforming the Food Safety System" on October 22, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Presidential

Advice and Senate Consent: The Past, Present, and Future of Policy Czars."

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009, at 2:15 p.m. in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 22, 2009, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 22, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

MEDAL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1209.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1209) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1209) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROCLAIMING CASIMIR PULASKI TO BE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES POSTHUMOUSLY

Mr. REID. I now ask we proceed to H.J. Res. 26, after the Judiciary Committee is so discharged.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, October 11, 2009, marked the 230th anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, a man who made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of American independence.

In March, I introduced S.J. Res. 12 to grant honorary posthumous citizenship to General Pulaski. The Senate passed my resolution unanimously. Recently, the House of Representatives passed H.J. Res. 26, the House's version of this resolution, which was introduced by Representative DENNIS KUCINICH. Today, the Senate will consider H.J. Res. 26 and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I would like to thank Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, the lead Republican cosponsor of S.J. Res. 12, as well as the resolution's other cosponsors, Senators MIKULSKI, CARDIN, WHITEHOUSE, DODD, BROWN, BURRIS, and PRYOR. I would especially like to thank the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., for their longstanding and tireless support for this resolution.

This resolution is a long overdue tribute to a man who gave his life to the cause of American freedom, a man who is often referred to as the "Father of the American Cavalry."

General Pulaski was born in Warsaw, Poland, and became a Polish national hero for his struggles against Russian domination. His opposition to Russian influence and participation in an unsuccessful rebellion against Russia led to his exile from Poland.

Seeking refuge, Pulaski traveled to France, where he met Benjamin Franklin and was inspired to join the Continental Army in its fight for American independence. Franklin recommended Pulaski to General George Washington as "an officer renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom."

On September 11, 1777, Casimir Pulaski fought with distinction in the Battle of Brandywine, where his bravery and military skill helped to avert American defeat and save the life of George Washington. Upon Washington's recommendation, the Continental Congress promoted Pulaski to General and appointed him General of the Cavalry. That same year, Casimir Pulaski wrote to Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."