

Whereas elements of the 137th Airlift Wing mobilized in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as part of the largest C-130 wing assembled in history, transporting troops, food, supplies, and equipment to United States forces in Iraq;

Whereas elements of the 137th Airlift Wing mobilized in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed to Uzbekistan, providing critical airlift and logistical support for United States forces in Afghanistan;

Whereas between 2003 and 2006, the 137th Airlift Wing transported 39,368 troops and 11,170 tons of critical cargo to United States forces in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the 137th Airlift Wing mobilized in 2005 and deployed one of the first C-130 units to support relief operations in response to Hurricane Katrina, including evacuating hospital and nursing home residents to safety by air, providing critical logistical support, and airlifting 2,500 members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard to population centers to provide aid to hurricane victims;

Whereas the 138th Fighter Wing mobilized in 2005, 2007, and 2008 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to Iraq to provide close air support and engage in combat missions, during which the 138th Fighter Wing expended 109,000 pounds of combat ordnance and successfully destroyed numerous targets; and

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, the 138th Fighter Wing has flown numerous Air Sovereignty Alert missions in the United States, protecting domestic targets against attack and contributing to homeland defense, and in 2008 the 138th Fighter Wing was recognized as the most active alert facility in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since September 11, 2001; and

(2) recognizes the citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oklahoma National Guard as invaluable to the national security of the United States, vital to defending against threats both foreign and domestic, and essential for responding to State and national emergencies.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration S. Res. 625, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 625) designating September 2010 as “National Preparedness Month.”

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 625) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 625

Whereas a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency could strike any part of the United States at any time;

Whereas natural and manmade emergencies disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives each year, costing lives and causing serious injuries and billions of dollars in property damage;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials as well as private entities are working to deter, prevent, and respond to all types of emergencies;

Whereas the people of the United States can help promote the overall emergency preparedness of the United States by being prepared for all types of emergencies;

Whereas National Preparedness Month provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of public emergency preparedness and to encourage the people of the United States to take steps to be better prepared for emergencies at home, work, and school;

Whereas the people of the United States can prepare for emergencies by taking steps such as assembling emergency supply kits, creating family emergency plans, and staying informed about possible emergencies; and

Whereas additional information about public emergency preparedness may be obtained through the Ready Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security at www.ready.gov or the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org/preparedness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2010 as “National Preparedness Month”; and

(2) encourages the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other applicable entities along with the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities to promote emergency preparedness.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3790 AND S. 3791

Mr. DURBIN. I understand there are two bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3790) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment.

A bill (S. 3791) to require Members of Congress to disclose delinquent tax liability, require an ethics inquiry, and garnish the wages of a Member with Federal tax liability.

Mr. DURBIN. I now ask for a second reading and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5297

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate convenes at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 16, and after any leader remarks, it resume consideration of H.R. 5297; that all postcloture time be considered expired at 10:45 a.m.; that upon the expiration of time, all pending amendments be withdrawn, except amendment No. 4594; that for the duration of this agreement, no other amendments, motions, or points of order be in order except as noted in this agreement; that the only motions in order be a Hatch motion to suspend the rules with respect to research and development and a Grassley motion to suspend the rules with respect to biodiesel, with Senators BAUCUS, HATCH, and GRASSLEY, or their designees, each controlling a total of 15 minutes; that the votes with respect to the motions to suspend occur in the order in which offered, beginning at 10:45 a.m.; that after the first vote, the succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each, and that prior to each vote there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that upon disposition of the aforementioned motions, the chairman of the Budget Committee's pay-go letter be read into the RECORD, the substitute amendment be agreed to, and then the time until 12 noon be equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that at 12 noon the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5297, as amended; that if cloture is invoked on the bill, then all postcloture time be yielded back, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, without further intervening action or debate; further, that the motions identified in this agreement be those which have been submitted at the desk when this agreement is entered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, I express my appreciation to everyone who worked to this end. I wish we had not had to spend the time we did, but we did, and now we are at a point where we need to be. I have had a number of conversations with the Republican leader, not only to work toward this but on how we can complete our work for this work period prior to the elections. So we are working on that. We do not have it done yet, but Senator MCCONNELL and I have had a number of conversations today and several yesterday.