

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 553

Mr. COBURN. I call up amendment No. 553.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN], for Mr. McCAIN, proposes an amendment numbered 553.

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To eliminate the additional amount of \$10,000,000, not included in the President's budget request for fiscal year 2012, appropriated for the Department of Defense for planning and design for the Energy Conservation Investment Program)

On Page 64, line 24, strike "\$3,380,917,000" and insert "\$3,370,917,000".

Mr. COBURN. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 556

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up my amendment No. 556, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON], for himself and Mr. KIRK, proposes an amendment numbered 556.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 114 between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

SEC. 301. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of Arlington National Cemetery shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives detailing the strategic plan and timetable to modernize the Cemetery's Information Technology system, including electronic burial records.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, this is a joint amendment. I support it. It concerns a report on the operations of Arlington National Cemetery. It is very necessary. My understanding is that

this then sets up the vote that the leaders have scheduled for Monday afternoon. And that is what we are doing right now to continue the consideration of this bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

INTERNET GAMBLING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, per the request of Senator KYL's office, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from myself and Senator KYL to the Attorney General be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, July 14, 2011.

Hon. ERIC HOLDER,
Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: As you know, several weeks ago, the U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York indicted various individuals associated with online poker sites for violations of various laws. Additional indictments were unveiled in Baltimore at the end of May.

These indictments came after many years in which the entities operated Internet poker websites to Americans in an open and notorious way with apparently no repercussions from law enforcement. Leading up to the indictments, this lack of activity by law enforcement led to a significant and growing perception that operating Internet poker and other Internet gambling did not violate U.S. laws, or at least that the Department of Justice thought that the case was uncertain enough that it chose not to pursue enforcement actions. In turn, this perception allowed this activity to spread substantially, so that at least 1,700 foreign sites continue to offer Internet gambling to U.S. players. We think it is important that the Department of Justice pursue aggressively and consistently those offering illegal Internet gambling in the United States.

In addition, we have two further concerns: the spread of efforts to legalize intra-state Internet gambling and the spread of efforts to offer such intra-state Internet gambling through state-sponsored lotteries.

We believe that the Department of Justice's longstanding position has been that all forms of Internet gambling are illegal—including intra-state Internet gambling, because activity over the Internet inherently crosses state lines, implicating federal anti-gambling laws such as the Wire Act. Yet efforts are underway in about a dozen states to legalize some form of intra-state Internet gambling. In many cases, Internet gambling advocates in those states cite the silence of the Department of Justice in the face of these efforts as acquiescence. In fact, we have heard that at a major conference in May, several officials from various state lotteries boasted that they have obtained the Department of Justice's effective consent by writing letters of their plans that stated that if no objection was received they would proceed with their Internet gambling plans—

and no objection has been received despite many months or years.

This is troubling. We respectfully request that you reiterate the Department's longstanding position that federal law prohibits gambling over the Internet, including intrastate gambling (e.g., lotteries). Conversely, if for some reason the Department is reconsidering its longstanding position, then we respectfully request that you consult with Congress before finalizing a new position that would open the floodgates to Internet gambling.

Finally, we would like to work with you to strengthen the penalties for those who violate the law and to see what modifications would be helpful to the Department to enhance its ability to fight Internet gambling.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID,
U.S. Senator.
JON KYL
U.S. Senator.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD M. CHASE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to a dedicated public servant from my home state of Michigan. Gerry Chase has devoted his professional life to helping others and improving the quality of public health in northern lower Michigan for nearly four decades, and I am pleased to recognize his life's work as he retires from public service this month. Through his many initiatives as the Public Health Officer for Northwest Michigan, Gerry has impacted many by working tirelessly to better the lives of the residents of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.

Gerry accepted the position of public health officer in 1974 at the urging of his mentor Roy R. Manty. Shortly after earning his bachelor of arts and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan, Gerry embarked on what he initially thought would be a short-term assignment, but would become his life's work. Thirty-seven years later, Gerry can look back with pride on a fulfilling and impressive record of accomplishment.

Charged with the responsibility of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and providing quality healthcare, Gerry has been at the forefront of some of the more complex and daunting public health issues, leading an agency that has grown from 17 in the mid-1970s to more than 200 employees today. Among Gerry's countless accomplishments as public health officer is an initiative to provide dental care to over 20,000 low-income residents, an effort to increase the number of poor women eligible for cost-free breast and cervical cancer screenings, and the establishment of a multicounty workplace smoking ban.

Through these accomplishments and many more like them, residents of these counties are living healthier and better. In 2007, Gerry was awarded the Roy R. Manty Distinguished Service Award, Michigan's top public health award. This honor, which bears the name of his mentor, is given to a person that embodies the "values, dedication and spirit Manty brought to public