

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 13, 2015, at 3 p.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kevin Rosenbaum, the detailee on the Senate Committee on Finance; Andrew Rollo, detailee on the Senate Committee on Finance; Sahra Su, a fellow to the Senate Committee on Finance; and Kenneth Schmidt, clerk to the Senate Committee on Finance, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the Congress.

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

## SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE YEAR OF 2015 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 10.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 10) supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and supporting locally led soil conservation.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Lee amendment at the desk be agreed to, the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1225) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify the support of Congress for voluntary landowner participation in certain conservation programs)

On page 2, line 13, insert "voluntary" before "landowner participation".

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 10), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 10

Whereas many of the international partners of the United States are designating 2015 as the "International Year of Soils";

Whereas soil is vitally important for food security and essential ecosystem functions;

Whereas soil conservation efforts in the United States are often locally led;

Whereas 2015 also marks the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590a et seq.) on April 27, 1935;

Whereas soils, as the foundation for agricultural production, essential ecosystem functions, and food security, are key to sustaining life on Earth;

Whereas soils and the science of soils contribute to improved water quality, food safety and security, healthy ecosystems, and human health; and

Whereas soil, plant, animal, and human health are intricately linked: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) supports the designation of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils";

(2) encourages the public to participate in activities that celebrate the importance of soils to the current and future well-being of the United States; and

(3) supports conservation of the soils of the United States, through—

(A) partnership with local soil and water conservation districts; and

(B) voluntary landowner participation in—

(i) the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.);

(ii) the environmental quality incentives program established under chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.);

(iii) the conservation stewardship program established under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3838D et seq.);

(iv) the agricultural conservation easement program established under subtitle H of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.);

(v) the regional conservation partnership program established under subtitle I of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871 et seq.); and

(vi) the small watershed rehabilitation program established under section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012).

## APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy: the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire (Committee on Appropriations) and the Honorable BENJAMIN CARDIN of Maryland (At Large).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to section 1295b(h) of title 46 App., United States Code, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: the Honorable GARY C. PETERS Michigan (At Large) and the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii (Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a),

as amended by Public Law 101-595, and further amended by Public Law 113-281, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: the Honorable MARIA CANTWELL of Washington and the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: the Honorable TOM UDALL of New Mexico (Committee on Appropriations) and the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO (Committee on Armed Services).

## ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 57, H.R. 1295, and Calendar No. 56, H.R. 644, en bloc, under the previous order; further, that the time from 10 a.m. until noon be equally divided in the usual form; finally, that the time following the votes in relation to H.R. 1295 and H.R. 644 until the cloture vote at 2 p.m. also be equally divided in the usual form.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 13, 2015:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SALLY QUILLIAN YATES, OF GEORGIA, TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL.