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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our mighty fortress, the source of all that is good, hallowed be Your Name. Lord, empower Your Senators to accomplish Your good in our world, leading them on the path of humility. Give them courage to live their faith so that people will see their positive contributions and glorify Your Name. Enable our lawmakers to respect and love each other unconditionally, even as You have so loved us. May they set apart sacred time to be with You.

Thank You for the gifts of life, love, and laughter that You provide us throughout life's seasons. Lord, fill all our hearts to overflowing with Your transformative love.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOEHNER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, grace under pressure; country and institution before self. These are the things that come to mind when I think of JOHN BOEHNER. He is an ally, he is a friend, and he took over as Republican leader at a very difficult time for his party.

When some said Republicans could never recover, he never gave up. When some gave into defeatism, he kept up the fight. And because he did, Speaker BOEHNER was able to transform a broken and dispirited Republican minority into the largest Republican majority since the 1920s. That is a legacy few can match.

He flew across the country more times than he can count to support Members of his conference and to recruit new Members to the cause. As the leader of a new majority, he turned the tide in Congress and brought conservative reform in many areas. He worked tirelessly to provide hope to those who dreamed of a better life and to middle-class families who struggled under the weight of this administration.

JOHN knows what it is like to struggle and to dream of something better. He has lived it. That a young man from Reading, OH, wielding a bar towel could one day wield the gavel of the U.S. House of Representatives reminds us of the continuing promise of this country.

We all know yesterday was an incredibly important event for the Speaker. It was his aim to bring the same spirit of grace to others that has always guided his life. One only had to look

out onto the Capitol lawn to see what he achieved. And that he chose this moment to make this decision means he is willing to leave us in a similar spirit.

I know we will all have more to say then. But for now, thank you, my friend.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOEHNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I, like most of America, was stunned this morning to learn that JOHN BOEHNER is going to resign in the next few weeks. I have had a relationship with JOHN BOEHNER for a long time. His becoming Speaker, of course, made those relations much more close.

I have not always agreed, and I wasn't always happy with what JOHN told me, but he never ever misled me. He never told me something that wasn't true, and I accepted that. I got to where I understood JOHN BOEHNER very well. His word was always good.

JOHN and I had a lot of dealings—so-called back-channel meetings. Everyone knows that a lot of things we do are not in the public eye. And certainly some things we worked on together perhaps wouldn't have worked out very well in the public eye, but there were things we had to do to get things done.

I had a very good relationship with JOHN BOEHNER. My staff got along with his. He has had two chiefs of staff and they have both been terrific to work with. My staff has reached out to them on so many occasions in very difficult times, and they had a good relationship.

I have no doubt that everything JOHN BOEHNER has done has been done with the fact in mind that he was doing his best for the people of his district in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Ohio and for our country. He had a very difficult job.

I know the Presiding Officer served under JOHN BOEHNER and so he knows what a tough job he had. He had this faction, that faction, another faction, and a couple more. But ousting a man like JOHN BOEHNER—a good man like JOHN BOEHNER. JOHN BOEHNER is a conservative Republican, but his problem is that JOHN BOEHNER has been pragmatic. He has realized there comes a time when you have to make a deal.

I say to the Presiding Officer and everyone within the sound of my voice, although I didn't know General Eisenhower, President Eisenhower—never met him, never saw him—but I was here when Ronald Reagan was President and he had conservative credentials. Ronald Reagan was somebody who understood the art of compromise. Who else could have worked out something with the Soviet Union? I am not sure there is anybody, but Ronald Reagan was able to do that.

I am so concerned. I am seeing the Republican Party—not the party of Dwight Eisenhower, as I have studied him, or the man Ronald Reagan as I knew him. I just think it is very, very sad the Tea Party Caucus the Republican leaders have embraced to win in 2010, I guess, now have taken over control of the party.

To say I will miss JOHN BOEHNER is a tremendous understatement. I looked out for him in ways I could, and he looked out for me in the ways he could. I will always consider JOHN BOEHNER my friend, and I look forward to working with him until he leaves. I understand it is going to be in late October, but I will continue to work with him, as I have in the past, to do what I think is the right thing for the country, as I am confident he will. Hopefully, we will continue someplace in the middle to get things done. I have gotten things done with JOHN BOEHNER that I wasn't happy with, and he wasn't happy with what we had to come up with, but sometimes you do the best you can.

I wish JOHN BOEHNER the very best in the future. Whatever I can do to make his life more pleasant, I will be happy to do that. Whether it is setting up a golf game for him in Las Vegas or helping in some government matter, I will do whatever I can because JOHN BOEHNER, as far as I am concerned, is a good man, and it is a gross underestimate to say I will miss him. I will.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to say a few words about a critical challenge and opportunity facing the United States. For months many of us have been on the floor debating some of the important foreign policy and national security issues that our Nation faces—whether it is Islamic terrorism, ISIS, the President's flawed and dangerous Iran agreement or a resurgent Russia in Europe and the Arctic. The list of these issues is long, and it is growing. But one issue that has not really gotten much attention—I believe the attention that it deserves—and that I would like to speak about this afternoon is the long-term national security and foreign policy consequences of the rise of China.

China's President Xi Jinping is in town right now. He is visiting America. He is going to meet with President Obama on a state visit, and some of us in Congress will have an opportunity to meet with him later today. It is an opportunity to start seriously thinking about the challenges and opportunities that a rising China presents to the world and to the United States.

Perhaps we are not talking about this issue as much as we should on the floor because it doesn't seem to be an immediate issue. It is a bit of a longer term matter. But it is also something that in historical terms is happening so fast. I will give one statistic.

In 1980 China's economy was smaller than that of the Netherlands. Last year, just the incremental growth of China's economy was as large as the Netherlands' economy. They have had incredible growth. But some of our country's most deep and strategic thinkers and historians agree that the rise of China is—over the next decade or two—the paramount issue for us to focus on in the United States.

As far back as 2005, 10 years ago almost to the day, then-Deputy Secretary of State Bob Zellick, who went on to be the president of the World Bank and a former U.S. Trade Representative for the United States, a very strategic thinker, gave what was called the “responsible stakeholders” speech, a very well-renowned speech that people are still reading on U.S.-China relations.

In that speech 10 years ago, he said: “How the United States deals with China's rising power is a central question in American foreign policy.”

Just a few months ago in testimony before the Armed Services Committee, Harvard Professor Graham Allison gave testimony that in many ways is reflected in an article he just published in the Atlantic yesterday on the eve of the visit of the President of China. He states in that article and in his testimony from a couple of months ago:

The preeminent geostrategic challenge of this era is not violent Islamic extremists, or

a resurgent Russia. It is the impact that China's ascendance will have on the U.S.-led national order.

More specifically, Professor Allison writes that “the defining question about global order for this generation is whether China and the United States can escape”—what he refers to as “the Thucydides trap.”

He is referencing the renowned ancient Greek historian.

Professor Allison coined this term to describe the strategic dilemma and dangers that occur when a rising power rivals a ruling power, as when—an example he gives in ancient Greece—Athens challenged Sparta in ancient Greece which ultimately led to the Peloponnesian War.

Professor Allison has caught the attention of many, including President Xi Jinping of China, who in a speech just a few days ago in Seattle actually referenced this term—the “Thucydides trap”—when talking about U.S.-China relations. Now, both Professor Allison and President Xi, in his speech, make it clear that conflict between the United States and China is certainly not inevitable, regardless of what he says with regard to the Thucydides trap, and I certainly would agree with that. Professor Allison, however, does appear to draw some very sobering conclusions in his recent article that should make all of us take serious pause. He concludes in his article written yesterday: “War between the U.S. and China is more likely than recognized at the moment.” These are his words, not mine. This is one of the most distinguished professors of international relations in the United States.

I think these words underscore the need for those of us in the Senate to give due attention to the importance of the U.S.-China relationship and the attendant risks of Graham Allison's Thucydides trap.

Fortunately, I believe we are well-positioned as an institution in the Senate to do this. In the Federalist Papers, Madison talks about one of the roles of the U.S. Senate with its Members having 6-year terms to be able to ensure lasting relations between the United States and other nations through the institution of the Senate. Perhaps more than any other part of the Federal Government, this institution has the opportunity to think strategically and act for the long-term interests of our country.

Fortunately, we also have many experts, historians, professors, and practitioners, whether it is people such as Bob Zoellick or Graham Allison or Henry Kissinger or a new generation of scholars, such as Mike Green at CSIS, who have been thinking about these issues—the Asia-Pacific, the rise in China—for decades. Their articles, books, and speeches are critical to devising national strategies to advance America's interests in the region.

This is a long-term endeavor for all of us. It is imperative that it remains on our radar screens through the

course of State visits, through the course of elections, through the course of changing administrations. Contrary to what some say, we as a country do have the capacity to think and act in our long-term strategic interests as a government.

Our successful bipartisan strategy dealing with the Soviet Union, started by Kennan's famous "X" telegram, which created the strategy of containment over the course of decades, over the course of several administrations and several different Congresses—it was a successful long-term strategy for the United States.

From my perspective, as we look at this issue—the Asia-Pacific—its importance—the rise of China—I think a few key touchstones are important to remember. First, America is an Asia-Pacific power. My State of Alaska is an Asia-Pacific State. The United States has strong networks of alliances throughout the Asia-Pacific, and our country has built the post-World War II architecture that has enabled this dynamic region of the world to thrive in terms of peace and in terms of prosperity. In fact, when we look at the last 70 years of history in that region, we have been the linchpin of that peace and prosperity for all countries in the region, whether our strongest allies such as Japan and Korea and Australia or other countries—countries even like China—and we have earned the trust of our allies for our commitment. So we need to maintain that trust as we move forward and we need to listen to our allies in the region.

Second, we need to understand the history of the region and our involvement there better as we think through what the strategy is moving forward. I have had the opportunity to go to the National Archives a number of times already since I joined the Senate, and there is a statue outside the National Archives and it has a command on it. It says simply: "Study the past." Study the past. Again, I think that as we are looking at our strategy in that region, it is critical that we need to be doing that. Professor Allison's article, as well as books, is a good start, and I think all of us need to continue that focus.

Third, no matter what strategy we end up using vis-a-vis China and the Asia-Pacific region, we have to be strong again at home. My biggest surprise as a new freshman Senator—my biggest surprise in this body is how little we, or certainly for that matter the Obama administration, talk about our economy, talk about the strength or the lack thereof of our economy. Perhaps because the performance of our economy has been so lackluster, we have even doubled down expectations.

They have this term now in Washington called "the new normal." American growth rates have typically been at 3, 3.5, 4 percent GDP growth throughout most of our history. Over the last 6 years, we can barely break 2 percent GDP growth; 1.5, 2 percent.

Two quarters ago, we went back into recession. They are now calling this the new normal and we need to accept this. We rarely hear the President or even the Treasury Secretary come out to the American people and say: No, we have to grow traditional levels of American growth—3.5, 5 percent, 4 percent GDP growth. The Presiding Officer knows this. He has focused on this issue. We are not doing that. We have to get back to strength at home because a continued weak U.S. economy—the new normal—growing at 1.5 percent for the next 5, 10 years will create all kinds of additional challenges for us and in my view will make the Thucydides trap that Professor Allison talks about more likely for the United States and China.

Yes, China has certain advantages, but in so many areas—in so many areas—the United States holds all the cards—in so many different areas. If we were in a global poker match and we were all at the table—all the big countries—we would look at our hand and we would see aces. Let me just name a few.

The high-tech sector, still the envy of the world; not just Silicon Valley, all over America.

Our agriculture sector. We feed the world.

Universities. We have the best universities in the world, by far—by far. Certain States in America have better top universities than all of China.

Finance and commercial aspects of our economy, the best entrepreneurs.

Energy. We have a renaissance in energy where we are now the largest producer of oil and gas in the world and the largest producer of renewables. This is a huge advantage. It is creating a rebirth of manufacturing in America.

Fisheries. We harvest some of the most amazing seafood, more than almost any other country in the world.

Foreign relations. We look at our allies in Asia, they are coming to the United States in terms of wanting to deepen their relationship with us.

And, of course, the U.S. military, the finest in the world right now. It is right now. I had the opportunity to go down to the World War II Memorial this morning and I saw a couple of Honor Flights coming in, seeing those veterans of ours who fought and defended this great Nation in World War II. We have had the best military for decades, and we are going to continue to do that.

The key is we have to unleash our economic might once again, which has been so dormant during the Obama administration. We have to do this. If we do this, we can view the rise of China from a standpoint of strength, confidence, and opportunity, not trepidation.

As Bob Zoellick mentioned 10 years ago in his "Responsible Stakeholders" speech: "You hear voices that perceive China solely through the lens of fear, but America succeeds when we look to the future as an opportunity, not when we fear what the future might bring."

I have had the opportunity to view the U.S.-China relationship from a variety of lenses, including economic, diplomatic, and even to some degree military. I previously served as the commissioner of natural resources and energy in Alaska and was able to take a trip over there with some Alaskans to look at ways to deepen our economic, trade, and energy relationship between my State and China and have them visit Alaska and participate in those meetings. I served in terms of diplomacy as an assistant secretary of state and have had numerous opportunities to travel to China with some of our top U.S. Government leaders—at the time Bob Zoellick, Secretary of the Treasury Paulson, and Secretary of State Rice—to discuss ways in which to deepen economic relationships and work on the U.S.-China relationship.

Even many years ago as a U.S. marine aboard an amphibious assault ship in the East and South China Sea during the third Taiwan Strait crisis, I was a very, very, very small player in an episode that once again demonstrated American resolve and commitment in the region.

There is a long tradition from Alaska Senators in keeping a focus on the importance of the Asia-Pacific, from both the Alaska and the U.S. perspective.

Former Senator Ted Stevens served in World War II as a Flying Tiger, flying the Hump in that part of the world, and his subsequent focus throughout his career was very much on the Asia-Pacific, as was Frank Murkowski's expertise and experience, particularly with regard to our relationship with Taiwan.

The focus on the Asia-Pacific and the rise of China is certainly one that in many ways we can view as an opportunity, certainly in my State. Last year, China became the No. 1 export market for Alaskan goods: \$1.4 billion of goods exported from Alaska to China—an 18-percent increase. So I believe maintaining this focus—and we have this visit today with the President of China—is critically important not only to my State, not only to our country but also to our allies in the region.

We should all try to put more focus and our best thinking on these critical foreign policy and national security issues which, although they are not always on the front page of the papers, I believe are some of the most important long-term strategic challenges and opportunities we face in this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JENNY DAVIS

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to COL Jenny W. Davis, legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for her service to our country. Her retirement later this year marks more than 26 years of devotion to our military and our Nation.

A Maryland native, COL Davis was commissioned into the Adjutant General's Corps in May 1989 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, and served her initial 4 years in the Army as a branch detailed officer in the Air Defense Artillery. Her military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course and Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course and the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

COL Davis has held assignments ranging from platoon leader, battery executive officer, and battalion adjutant, 6th Battalion, 43d Air Defense Artillery, 32d AADCOR, and V Corps, Ansbach, Germany; detachment commander, B Detachment, 546th Personnel Services Battalion, 3d Personnel Group, and chief of officer management, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, TX; HHC commander, 8th Personnel Command, 8th U.S. Army, Camp Coiner, Korea; joint staff intern serving in the offices of the J1 and the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the Pentagon; company grade assignment officer, chief of officer management division and chief of personnel management division, I Corps, and battalion executive officer, 22d Personnel Services Battalion, 1st Personnel Group, Fort Lewis, WA; strategic planner, Army G-1, Headquarters Department of the Army, HQDA, the Pentagon; DoD Congressional Fellow, office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Washington, DC; legislative liaison—Personnel Policy Portfolio, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, OCLL, the Pentagon; Strategic Initiatives Group, I Corps/U.S. Forces—Iraq, OIF; legislative liaison—Arlington National Cemetery, OCLL.

COL Davis's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with four oakleaf clusters; Joint Service Commendation Medal, with one oakleaf cluster; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal, with two oakleaf clusters; Parachutist Badge; and Joint Chiefs of Staff and Army Staff Identification Badges.

Jenny is married to Grant Davis. They have two sons, Zach, 16, and Ben, 14.●

RECOGNIZING THE JUDGE PORTER HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians are committed to preserving the traditions that make us profoundly

unique as a State and as a nation. This is especially true in the Louisiana Purchase's oldest city Natchitoches, LA, home to Small Business of the Week, the Judge Porter House Bed and Breakfast.

Nestled in the Cane River National Heritage Area, the Judge Porter House Bed and Breakfast offers a unique experience to its guests. Built in 1912, the establishment originally served as the home of "Judge" Thomas Fitzgerald Porter and his wife, Wilhelmina. While not an actual judge, Judge Porter was a prominent figure who worked at the parish courthouse, and during the course of his life, he enjoyed the honorary title. Over the next few decades, the home was sold to various families who contributed to the effort of restoring the property to its original state. By 1987, while in the care of Mark Rachal and his wife, Sharon, they remodeled the interior and revamped the landscaping for the home's grand re-opening in 1996 as a part of the Natchitoches Historic Foundation's Annual Fall Pilgrimage.

Today, under the management and care of Charles LaCaze, Jr., the 3,000-square-foot property incorporates many turn-of-the-century architectural elements throughout its five guest rooms, two parlors, and the Queen Anne-style gallery that wraps around the house. Each year, the Judge Porter House Bed and Breakfast hosts guests from around the Nation. Located in downtown Natchitoches, LA, visitors can walk to various local restaurants and shops, as well as visit nearby national parks and fish hatcheries after enjoying a traditional southern-style breakfast.

Congratulations to Judge Porter Bed and Breakfast for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to the preservation of Louisiana's rich history.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:06 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 261. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 994. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1707. An act to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 322. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield,

Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

H.R. 323. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

H.R. 324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

H.R. 558. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

H.R. 1442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

H.R. 1884. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3059. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

H.R. 3116. An act to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 322. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 323. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 558. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1884. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3059. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3116. An act to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to

conduct the quarterly financial report program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2081. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand presumption of service connection for compensation for diseases the Secretary determines are associated with exposure to herbicide agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 370

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 788

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 788, a bill to require the termination of any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is found to have retaliated against a whistleblower.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1767, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to combination products, and for other purposes.

S. 1793

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 2060

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and services program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 267

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 267, a resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2695. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2696. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2697. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2698. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2699. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2700. Mr. GARDNER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2695. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal

investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.

SA 2696. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "5" and insert "6".

SA 2697. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 7 days after the date of enactment.

SA 2698. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "7" and insert "8".

SA 2699. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "8" and insert "9".

SA 2700. Mr. GARDNER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 18, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(c) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2082, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak about this Senate bill, which will complete the job in Denver and finish the Denver-Aurora veterans hospital. This has been a longtime process. It has been a struggle. But I want to thank Senator MCCONNELL, Senator ISAKSON, Senator KIRK, and Senator BLUMENTHAL for their incredible efforts to bring us to this point.

The hospital in Aurora will be a crown jewel in the VA system, and the veterans who have worked so hard to make this a reality deserve nothing but the best, and I believe we start the process of finally building this and finishing it and getting the job done here on the Senate floor today.

I ask unanimous consent that the Lee amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2700) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the transfer of amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund to fund the increase of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado)

On page 18, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(c) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

The bill (S. 2082), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows: 5se7.025

S. 2082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.

Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.

Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.

Sec. 107. Extension of authority for DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

Sec. 108. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense–Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Sec. 109. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education.

Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.

Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.

Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.

Sec. 303. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.

Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

Sec. 308. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department facilities.

Sec. 402. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

Sec. 403. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 407. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.

Sec. 408. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.

Sec. 409. Extension of authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.

Sec. 410. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.

Sec. 411. Extension of requirement for annual report on Department of Defense–Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.

Sec. 412. Modification of authorization of fiscal year 2008 major medical facility project at Department medical center in Tampa, Florida.

Sec. 413. Authorization of major medical facility projects.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER

Sec. 501. Increase in authorization for Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility project previously authorized.

Sec. 502. Project management of super construction projects.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Technical and clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.

Section 1720G(e) is amended—
 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;
 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
 (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
 “(3) \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.”.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2016”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking “and 2015” and inserting “, 2015, and 2016”.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DODVA HEALTH CARE SHARING INCENTIVE FUND.

Section 8111(d)(3) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND.

Section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), as amended by section 722 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3417), is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking “and 2015” and inserting “2015, and 2016”.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Section 3692(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.

Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2016”.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—
 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and
 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2015,” and inserting “September 30, 2016,”.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2041(c) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Section 2044(e)(1)(E) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2013 through 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2016”.

SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) **GENERAL TREATMENT.**—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

(b) **ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 521A(g)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.

Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 407. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—
 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and
 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016”.

SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.

Subsection (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 410. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.

Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended by striking “one-year” and inserting “two-year”.

SEC. 411. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTERAGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.

Section 1635(h)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 412. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTER IN TAMPA, FLORIDA.

(a) **MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION.**—In chapter 3 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 122 Stat. 2326), in the matter under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, after “Five Year Capital Plan” insert the following: “and for constructing a new bed tower at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Tampa, Florida, in lieu of providing bed tower upgrades at such medical center”.

(b) **EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) **DESIGNATION IN SENATE.**—In the Senate, subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 413. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Construction of a community living center, outpatient clinic, renovated domiciliary, and renovation of existing buildings in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$158,980,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$126,100,000.

(3) Seismic correction of 12 buildings in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$70,500,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury building and seismic corrections in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$205,840,000.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, a total of \$561,420,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) **LIMITATION.**—The projects authorized under this section may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2015 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER
SEC. 501. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215), as amended by section 1 of Public Law 114-25, is further amended by striking “\$1,050,000,000” and inserting “\$1,675,000,000”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2016 authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transfer discretionary unobligated balances appropriated for fiscal year 2015 and discretionary advance appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(c) **PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

SEC. 502. PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF SUPER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 8103 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) In the case of any super construction project, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department Federal entity to provide full project management services for the super construction project, including management over the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes.

“(2) An agreement entered into under paragraph (1) with a Federal entity shall provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Federal entity for all costs associated with the provision of project management services under the agreement.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘super construction project’ means a project for the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a medical facility involving a total expenditure of more than \$100,000,000.”

(b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the following:

(1) The medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(2) Any super construction project (as defined in section 8103(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) that is authorized on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (g)(2)(A)” and inserting “subsection (g)(2)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 1395(l))” and inserting “(42 U.S.C. 1395m(l))”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title, by striking the item relating to section 521A and inserting the following:

“521A. Adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.”;

(3) in section 1503(a)(5), by striking “subclause” and inserting “subparagraph” each place it appears;

(4) in section 1710(e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (F)(viii), by striking “Myelodysplastic” and inserting “Myelodysplastic”;

(5) in section 1710D(c)(1), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(6) in section 1720G(a)(7)(B)(iii), by striking “has” and inserting “have”;

(7) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking the semicolon and inserting a comma;

(8) in section 1832(b)(2), by striking “(b)(2)” and inserting “(b)(3)”; and

(9) in section 2044(b)(1)(D), by striking “federal” and inserting “Federal”;

(10) in section 2101(a), by moving the margins of paragraph (2), and of the subparagraphs, clauses, and subclauses therein, 2 ems to the left;

(11) in section 2101(a)(2)(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause (ii):

“(ii) The disability is due to—

“(I) blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus

“(II) loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.”.

(12) in section 2109(a) by striking “provisions of section” and inserting “provisions of sections”;

(13) in section 2303(c), by striking “internment” and inserting “interment”;

(14) in section 2411(e)(1), by striking “federal official” and inserting “Federal official”;

(15) in section 3108(b)(4), by inserting “the” before “rehabilitation program concerned”;

(16) in section 3313, by striking “1070a” each place it appears and inserting “1070a(b)”; and

(17) in section 3313(e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking the second period;

(18) in section 3313(g)(3)(A)(iii), by inserting a comma after “books”;

(19) in section 3319, by striking “armed forces” each place it appears and inserting “Armed Forces”;

(20) in section 4102A(c)(9)(A)(ii)(III), by striking the quotation mark at the end;

(21) in section 5302A—

(A) by amending the enumerator and section heading to read as follows:

“**§ 5302A. Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone**”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “(as that term is defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(22) in section 7309(c)(1), by inserting “the” before “Veterans Health Administration”;

(23) in section 7401(3)(A)(ii), by striking “that”;

(24) in section 7683(d), by inserting a period at the end; and

(25) in section 8162(a)(2), by inserting “if” after “housing and”.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DESIGNATING A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 213.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 213) designating October 30, 2015, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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 resolution (S. Res. 213) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 24, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4:30 p.m., Monday, September 28; 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 leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 719, with the time until the cloture vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015, AT 4:30 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 1:42 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 28, 2015, at 4:30 p.m.