

legacy of Federal support for improving and expanding access to museum services. It addresses the critical need for professional development and recruiting and preparing the next generation of museum professionals, emphasizing diversity so that museums better reflect the communities they serve. The legislation also highlights the educational role of museums and the diverse ways that museums engage their communities, and it encourages partnerships with other agencies, professional networks, and community-based organizations to expand and enhance access to museum services.

At this year's National Medal for Museum and Library Service ceremony, First Lady Michelle Obama captured why it is so vital that we continue to support libraries and museums on a national level: "Day after day, year after year, our nation's libraries and museums are here for our communities. And at the end of the day, you all don't measure your impact by the number of books on your shelves or pieces in your exhibits, but by the young people you inspire, the lives you transform, and the impact you have every single day on your communities."

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 will continue our tradition of supporting our communities through their museums and libraries. It has the support of the American Library Association and the American Alliance of Museums and many of their affiliated associations. I thank my colleagues for supporting this endeavor and look forward to more joining us as we work together to urge swift action to adopt this important legislation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE BAYS, HARBORS, AND TERRITORIAL SEAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 9, 1962, AND ENDING ON MAY 7, 1975, SHOULD BE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE TOXIN AGENT ORANGE AND SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL RELATED FEDERAL BENEFITS THAT COME WITH SUCH PRESUMPTION UNDER THE AGENT ORANGE ACT OF 1991

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 51

Whereas section 1116(f) of title 38, United States Code, states that "For the purposes of establishing service connection for a disability or death resulting from exposure to a herbicide agent, including a presumption of service-connection under this section, a veteran who, during active military, naval, or

air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to an herbicide agent containing dioxin or 2,4 dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, and may be presumed to have been exposed during such service to any other chemical compound in an herbicide agent, unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that service.";

Whereas the international definition and United States-recognized borders of the Republic of Vietnam includes the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of that Republic;

Whereas multiple scientific and medical sources, including studies done by the government of Australia, have shown evidence of exposure to herbicide agents such as Agent Orange by those serving in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas veterans who served in the Armed Forces in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, were exposed to this toxin through their ships' distillation processes, air and water currents, and the use of exposed water from inland sources, such as water from near heavily-sprayed Monkey Mountain, delivered by exposed water barges;

Whereas such veterans experience and significantly higher percentage of medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure compared to those in the regular populace;

Whereas when passing the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4), Congress did not differentiate between those who served on the inland waterways and on land versus those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of that Republic;

Whereas the purpose behind providing presumptive coverage for medical conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange is because proving such exposure decades after its occurrence is not scientifically or medically possible; and

Whereas thousands of veterans who served in the Armed Forces in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, die at increasing rates every year; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the intent of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4) included the presumption that those veterans who served in the Armed Forces in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, were exposed to the Agent Orange dioxin;

(2) intends for those veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, in the bays, harbors, territorial seas, inland waterways, on the ground in the Republic of Vietnam, and other areas exposed to Agent Orange, and having been diagnosed with connected medical conditions to be equally recognized for such exposure through equitable benefits and coverage; and

(3) calls on the Department of Veterans' Affairs to acknowledge this intent of Congress, rescind the VA Adjudication Procedure Manual M21-1, Part IV, Subpart II, Chapter 1, Section H, Topic 28.h, and reissue guidance extending presumptive coverage for exposure to agent orange to veterans described in paragraph (1).

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5082. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

SA 5083. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5084. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5083 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5085. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5086. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5085 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5087. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5088. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5087 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5089. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5088 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 5087 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, supra.

SA 5090. Mr. COATS (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1878, to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

SA 5091. Mr. COATS (for Ms. HIRONO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2683, to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 5082.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert in lieu thereof:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act".

##### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Statement of appropriations.
- Sec. 5. Availability of funds.
- Sec. 6. Explanatory statement.

##### DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

- Title I—Department of Defense
- Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs
- Title III—Related agencies
- Title IV—Overseas contingency operations
- Title V—General provisions

##### DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

##### DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

##### DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

##### SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any