

Class Alvin Dvorak, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton, and Fire Controlman Third Class Lauren Bruner.

Upon seeing the men, Joe threw a heaving line between the *Vestal* and the *Arizona* to rescue the wounded sailors from the sinking ship. Suspended 40 feet in the air, the six sailors climbed 70 feet hand over hand across the rope to safety onboard the *Vestal*. These sailors did all this while enduring injuries so severe that two would succumb to their wounds in the weeks following the attack.

As they struggled across the heavy line, Joe George remained close by, all the while encouraging the men to push on.

The four sailors who survived their injuries each returned to serve with honor during World War II and then went on to live long lives.

I spoke with two of them, and hearing about the injuries they had and that they still were able to return to service in the Second World War was amazing.

Joe George's legacy of heroism will remain alive forever in the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the four sailors who survived the infamous day, thanks to Joe George.

Joe George was never awarded a medal for his role in the rescue of the six sailors, although his commanding officer commended his courageous actions. When I met with one of the *Arizona* survivors who was rescued by Joe, he told me, "Joe George was never awarded anything for his bravery. He is no longer with us, but I believe in his memory he should be awarded the Navy Cross."

Lauren Bruner was another survivor whom Joe saved. He said to me:

The six of us would not have survived except for his courage, in spite of being at high risk himself. He fully deserves high commendations for his actions. I feel he should be recognized for this courage and presented the Navy Cross.

In his own words, during an interview in 1978, Joe said: "I'll tell you, the only thing I could tell you about that day . . . my conscience was my guide."

Well, his conscience was that of a hero. We need more people like Joe George in this world. That is why I am committed to honoring Joe and why I rise today with the honor and privilege to submit a resolution honoring Joseph Leon George.

Joe passed away in 1996, and it is long overdue that the Senate, the U.S. Navy, and a grateful nation honor the heroism of Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joseph Leon George.

God bless Joe George, whose immense and astounding composure serves as an example of the men and women in uniform who follow in his wake. Let us never forget his heroism and sacrifice.

I would like to also thank my colleagues Senators GARDNER, LEE, COTTON, McCASKILL, and BENNET for joining me on this resolution. I look for-

ward to working with them on its swift adoption.

SENATE RESOLUTION 244—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY, DOCUMENT PRODUCTION, AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. ROBERT MENENDEZ, ET AL

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 244

Whereas, in the case of *United States of America v. Robert Menendez, et al.*, Cr. No. 15-155, pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, testimony and the production of documents may be needed from various current and former Members and employees of the Senate, relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current or former Members and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That current and former Members and employees of the Senate are authorized to testify and produce documents in the case of *United States of America v. Robert Menendez, et al.*, and related proceedings, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent current and former Members and employees of the Senate in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the Democratic Leader, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing testimony, production of documents, and representation by the Senate Legal Counsel, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns the case pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey against Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ. Both the Department of Justice and Senator MENENDEZ are expected to seek trial testimony from Members and Senate staff.

This resolution would authorize Senate individuals called to appear to testify and produce documents in this case and related proceedings, except concerning matters for which a privilege is asserted. It would also authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent individuals called to testify at trial as fact witnesses regarding their performance of official Senate responsibilities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 747. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 748. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 749. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1282, to redesignate certain clinics of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montana.

SA 750. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 751. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2430, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and bio-similar biological products, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 747. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 601 and the following:

SEC. 601. FISCAL YEAR 2018 INCREASE IN MILITARY BASIC PAY.

(a) WAIVER OF SECTION 1009 ADJUSTMENT.—The adjustment to become effective during fiscal year 2018 required by section 1009 of title 37, United States Code, in the rates of monthly basic pay authorized members of the uniformed services shall not be made.

(b) INCREASE IN BASIC PAY.—Effective on January 1, 2018, the rates of monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services shall be increased by a percentage that is equal to or greater than the percentage by which—

(1) the ECI for the final fiscal quarter of fiscal year 2017, exceeds

(2) the ECI for the final fiscal quarter of fiscal year 2016.

(c) DETERMINATION OF PERCENTAGE.—The Secretary of Defense shall determine the percentage increase in rates of monthly basic pay provided for by subsection (b) in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(d) ECI DEFINED.—In this section, the term "ECI" has the meaning given that term in section 1009(a)(3)(A) of title 37, United States Code.