

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.

SA 748. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) 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:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Government Purchase and Travel Cards

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Saving Federal Dollars Through Better Use of Government Purchase and Travel Cards Act of 2017”.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **IMPROPER PAYMENT.**—The term “improper payment” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note).

(2) **QUESTIONABLE TRANSACTION.**—The term “questionable transaction” means a charge card transaction that from initial card data appears to be high risk and may therefore be improper due to non-compliance with applicable law, regulation or policy.

(3) **STRATEGIC SOURCING.**—The term “strategic sourcing” means analyzing and modifying a Federal agency’s spending patterns to better leverage its purchasing power, reduce costs, and improve overall performance.

SEC. 1093. EXPANDED USE OF DATA ANALYTICS.

(a) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Administrator for General Services, shall develop a strategy to expand the use of data analytics in managing government purchase and travel charge card programs. These analytics may employ existing General Services Administration capabilities, and may be in conjunction with agencies’ capabilities, for the purpose of—

(1) identifying examples or patterns of questionable transactions and developing enhanced tools and methods for agency use in—

(A) identifying questionable purchase and travel card transactions; and

(B) recovering improper payments made with purchase and travel cards;

(2) identifying potential opportunities for agencies to further leverage administrative process streamlining and cost reduction from purchase and travel card use, including additional agency opportunities for card-based strategic sourcing;

(3) developing a set of purchase and travel card metrics and benchmarks for high-risk activities, which shall assist agencies in identifying potential emphasis areas for their purchase and travel card management and oversight activities, including those required by the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-194); and

(4) developing a plan, which may be based on existing capabilities, to create a library of analytics tools and data sources for use by Federal agencies (including inspectors general of those agencies).

SEC. 1094. GUIDANCE ON IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING TO CURB IMPROPER PAYMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the inter-

agency charge card data management group established under section 1095, shall issue guidance on improving information sharing by government agencies for the purposes of section 1093(a)(1).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall—

(1) require relevant officials at Federal agencies to identify high-risk activities and communicate that information to the appropriate management levels within the agencies;

(2) require that appropriate officials at Federal agencies review the reports issued by charge card-issuing banks on questionable transaction activity (such as purchase and travel card pre-suspension and suspension reports, delinquency reports, and exception reports), including transactions that occur with high-risk activities, and suspicious timing or amounts of cash withdrawals or advances;

(3) provide for the appropriate sharing of information related to potential questionable transactions, fraud schemes, and high-risk activities with the General Services Administration and the appropriate officials in Federal agencies;

(4) consider the recommendations made by Inspectors General or the best practices Inspectors General have identified; and

(5) include other requirements determined appropriate by the Director for the purposes of carrying out this subtitle.

SEC. 1095. INTERAGENCY CHARGE CARD DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish a purchase and travel charge card data management group to develop and share best practices for the purposes described in section 1093(a).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The best practices developed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) cover rules, edits, and task order or contract modifications related to charge card-issuing banks;

(2) include the review of accounts payable information and purchase and travel card transaction data of agencies for the purpose of identifying potential strategic sourcing and other additional opportunities (such as recurring payments, utility payments, and grant payments) for which the charge cards or related payment products could be used as a payment method; and

(3) include other best practices as determined by the Administrator and Director.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The purchase and travel charge card data management group shall meet regularly as determined by the co-chairs, for a duration of three years, and include those agencies as described in section 2 of the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-194) and others identified by the Administrator and Director.

SEC. 1096. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator for General Services shall submit a report to Congress on the implementation of this subtitle, including the metrics used in determining whether the analytic and benchmarking efforts have reduced, or contributed to the reduction of, questionable or improper payments as well as improved utilization of card-based payment products.

(b) **AGENCY REPORTS AND CONSOLIDATED REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency described in section 2 of the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-194) shall submit a report to the Director

of the Office of Management and Budget on that agency’s activities to implement this subtitle.

(c) **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a consolidated report of agency activities to implement this subtitle, which may be included as part of another report submitted to Congress by the Director.

(d) **REPORT ON ADDITIONAL SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall submit a report to Congress identifying and exploring further potential savings opportunities for government agencies under the Federal charge card programs. This report may be combined with the report required under subsection (a).

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; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINICS IN MONTANA.

(a) **DAVID J. THATCHER VA CLINIC.**—

(1) **DESIGNATION.**—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2687 Palmer Street in Missoula, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “David J. Thatcher VA Clinic”.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the David J. Thatcher VA Clinic.

(b) **DR. JOSEPH MEDICINE CROW VA CLINIC.**—

(1) **DESIGNATION.**—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1775 Spring Creek Lane in Billings, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow VA Clinic”.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow VA Clinic.

(3) **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF NAME.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any local public display of the name of the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) carried out by the United States or through the use of Federal funds shall include the English name, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, and the Crow name, Dakaak Baako, of Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow.

(B) **LOCAL DISPLAY.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a local public display of the name of the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) includes a display inside the clinic, on the campus of the clinic, and in the community surrounding the clinic, such as signs directing individuals to the clinic.

(c) **BENJAMIN CHARLES STEELE VA CLINIC.**—

(1) **DESIGNATION.**—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1766 Majestic Lane in Billings, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Benjamin Charles Steele VA Clinic”.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Benjamin Charles Steele VA Clinic.

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; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____ . TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED PERIOD OF PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES RELATING TO MORTGAGES, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE, AND EVICTION.

Section 710(d) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 50 U.S.C. 3953 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “January 1, 2018” and inserting “January 1, 2020”.

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 biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 97, strike line 20 and all that follows through line 9 on page 98 and insert the following:

“(k) RELATION TO ORPHAN DRUGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL; EXEMPTION FOR ORPHAN INDICATIONS.—Unless the Secretary requires otherwise by regulation, this section does not apply to any drug for an indication for which orphan designation has been granted under section 526, except as provided in paragraph (2).

“(2) APPLICABILITY DESPITE ORPHAN DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN INDICATIONS.—This section shall apply with respect to a drug or biological product for which an indication has been granted orphan designation under section 526—

“(A) if the pediatric cancer investigation described in subsection (a)(3) applies to the drug or biological product as described in subsection (a)(1)(B); or

“(B) if such orphan indication is limited to a pediatric subpopulation and such indication in the adult population does not qualify for orphan designation.

“(3) EFFECT OF APPLICATION.—Application of this section to drugs and biological products described in paragraph (2)(B) does not limit the applicability of section 526 to such drugs and biological products.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. FISHER. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are au-

thorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 2, 2017 at 5 p.m. to conduct a business meeting to report nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold an Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “FBI Headquarters Consolidation Project—What Happened and What's Next.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, August 2, at 11 a.m. in the President's Room. We will be considering the nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 11 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 2 p.m., to hold a briefing entitled “The Authorizations for the Use of Military Force: Administration Perspective.”

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate Wednesday, August 2, 2017 off the floor at the start of the first vote to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water and Power is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 10 a.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, Au-

gust 2, 2017, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Assessing the Colombia Peace Process: The Way Forward in U.S.-Colombia Relations.”

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, August 3, the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of Calendar No. 103, the nomination of the Deputy Secretary at the Department of Energy. I further ask that there be 15 minutes of debate on the nomination equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on confirmation with no intervening action or debate, and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY, DOCUMENT PRODUCTION, AND REPRESENTATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 244, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 244) to authorize testimony, document production, and representation in United States of America v. Robert Menendez, et al.

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 considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 244) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 115-31, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission: Marjorie Dannenfelser of Virginia and Clea Mitchell of North Carolina.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the