

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 349) commemorating and honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and their families as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to a close.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. I wish to add my name as a cosponsor to the resolution.

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

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Rhode Island for bringing forward this resolution. As the proud wife of an Iraq war veteran, this is an appropriate time. We thank our troops for what they have done in Iraq, for their courage, their sacrifice, and for allowing Iraq an opportunity to forge a democracy moving forward. We also remember and honor the thousands who have lost their lives for us and for our freedom and we thank all of them at this time of year. I rise in support of this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 349) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 349

Whereas nearly 1,500,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in Iraq, many serving on multiple deployments;

Whereas the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in support of operations in Iraq performed brilliantly in a highly complex and challenging environment, and did everything that was asked of them and more to meet the requirements of the mission;

Whereas thousands of members of the National Guard and Reserves left their civilian jobs and livelihoods to support operations in Iraq, making enormous contributions, and serving with distinction;

Whereas nearly 4,500 members of the United States Armed Forces made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives in support of operations in Iraq;

Whereas more than 30,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded serving in support of operations in Iraq;

Whereas families of the members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq endured repeated deployments and spent many holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries apart;

Whereas, after nearly nine years of combat, we welcome home our veterans and continue to support members of the United States Armed Forces deployed in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world;

Whereas Iraq's destiny and future development now lie with its people; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize the service and sacrifices made by those members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans, as well as their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) pays tribute to the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in support of operations in Iraq;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, and honor their sacrifices; and

(3) commemorates and honors the contributions made by members of the United States Armed Forces and their families, as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to a close.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now two minutes of debate prior to a vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this Omnibus appropriations bill represents a victory for compromise, a victory for American taxpayers, and a victory for bipartisanship. It is fiscally responsible and it provides the necessary guidance to our agencies so they will be able to fulfill their vital missions on behalf of the American people. It meets every requirement of the Budget Control Act and contains not a single earmark; 149 Democrats and 147 Republicans voted in favor of this bill yesterday. Clearly it is a strong bipartisan bill and I urge a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this will be the last rollcall vote of this year.

Have a happy holiday, everyone.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Akaka	Conrad	Landrieu
Alexander	Coons	Lautenberg
Baucus	Durbin	Leahy
Begich	Feinstein	Levin
Bennet	Franken	Lieberman
Bingaman	Gillibrand	Manchin
Blumenthal	Graham	Menendez
Blunt	Hagan	Merkley
Boozman	Harkin	Mikulski
Boxer	Heller	Murkowski
Brown (MA)	Hoeven	Murray
Brown (OH)	Hutchison	Nelson (NE)
Cantwell	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Cardin	Isakson	Pryor
Carper	Johanns	Reed
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Chambliss	Kerry	Roberts
Cochran	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Collins	Kohl	Schumer

Shaheen	Udall (NM)	Wicker
Stabenow	Warner	Wyden
Tester	Webb	
Udall (CO)	Whitehouse	

NAYS—32

Ayotte	Hatch	Portman
Barrasso	Inhofe	Risch
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Coats	Kirk	Sanders
Coburn	Kyl	Sessions
Corker	Lee	Shelby
Cornyn	Lugar	Snowe
Crapo	McCain	Thune
DeMint	McCaskill	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Grassley	Moran	

MOT VOTING—1

Paul

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 32. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, the conference report is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I cast my vote against H.R. 2055, the nine-bill appropriations measure. I opposed this package because the process put forward by the majority was woefully inadequate given the seriousness of the issues involved. Valuable legislative time was wasted this year on political messaging votes; time that could have been more properly devoted to the nuts and bolts of legislating. The full Senate, for example, was denied the opportunity to consider the Defense Appropriations bill at a time when our men and women in uniform are facing looming uncertainty over out-year funding.

Despite my overall opposition to this measure, I would note that there are several provisions that I am in favor of in this package. As always, I support funding for the brave members of our military and for our veterans. Indeed, I voted for the Senate version of the Military Construction/VA appropriations bill earlier this year and just a few days ago voted for the final version of the Defense Authorization bill. Among the other provisions I support are policy riders such as those that encourage a culture of life and that rein in government overreach.

In closing, it is unfortunate that the majority continues to operate as it has. I am hopeful that the majority's efforts in this regard do not presage further legislative shortcuts on matters of national importance in the second session of this Congress.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 2 p.m. today, with Senators during that period of time being permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.