

the Congressional Record of November 13, 2013.

PN999 NAVY nomination of Julie A. Meier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 19, 2013.

PN1000 NAVY nomination of Krysten J. Pelstring, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 19, 2013.

PN1027 NAVY nomination of Michael R. Saum, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 12, 2013.

#### NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN 877 and 878; that the nominations be confirmed; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

##### IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203a:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Francis S. Pelkowski, 9110

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C. section 271(e):

*To be rear admiral (1h)*

Capt. Meridith L. Austin, 2762

Capt. Peter W. Gautier, 7093

Capt. Michael J. Haycock, 0599

Capt. James M. Heinz, 3785

Capt. Kevin E. Lunday, 2704

Capt. Todd A. Sokalzuk, 8840

Capt. Paul F. Thomas, 4877

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### AMENDING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3343, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3343) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to clarify the rules regarding the determination of the compensation of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 3343) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATIVE FINES PROGRAM EXTENSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3487, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3487) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to extend through 2018 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission, to expand such authority to certain other violations, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, that the motion to reconsider be made, and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 3487) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 269, S. Res. 75.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 75) condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble.

(Omit the part in boldface brackets and insert the part printed in italic.

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

##### S. RES. 75

[Whereas, in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2013, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding

the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2012 Report stated, "The Baha'i community has long been subject to particularly severe religious freedom violations in Iran. Baha'is, who number at least 300,000, are viewed as 'heretics' by Iranian authorities and may face repression on the grounds of apostasy.;"

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2012 Report stated, "Since 1979, Iranian government authorities have killed more than 200 Baha'i leaders in Iran and dismissed more than 10,000 from government and university jobs.;"

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2012 Report stated, "Baha'is may not establish places of worship, schools, or any independent religious associations in Iran.;"

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2012 Report stated, "Baha'is are barred from the military and denied government jobs and pensions as well as the right to inherit property. Their marriages and divorces also are not recognized, and they have difficulty obtaining death certificates. Baha'i cemeteries, holy places, and community properties are often seized or desecrated, and many important religious sites have been destroyed.;"

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2012 Report stated, "The Baha'i community faces severe economic pressure, including denials of jobs in both the public and private sectors and of business licenses. Iranian authorities often pressure employers of Baha'is to dismiss them from employment in the private sector.;"

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "The government prohibits Baha'is from teaching and practicing their faith and subjects them to many forms of discrimination that followers of other religions do not face.;"

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "According to [Iranian] law, Baha'i blood is considered 'mobah', meaning it can be spilled with impunity.;"

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated that "members of religious minorities, with the exception of Baha'is, can serve in lower ranks of government employment", and "Baha'is are barred from all leadership positions in the government and military";

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "Baha'is suffered frequent government harassment and persecution, and their property rights generally were disregarded. The government raided Baha'i homes and businesses and confiscated large amounts of private and commercial property, as well as religious materials belonging to Baha'is.;"

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "Baha'is also are required to register with the police.;"

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated that "[p]ublic and private universities continued to deny admittance to and expelled Baha'i students" and "[d]uring the year, at least 30 Baha'is were barred or expelled from universities on political or religious grounds";

Whereas the Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report stated, "Baha'is are regularly denied compensation for injury or criminal victimization.;"