

United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2356

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2356, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to require an electronic communication service provider that generates call detail records pursuant to an order under that Act to notify the Attorney General if the provider intends to retain such records for a period less than 18 months.

S. 2362

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide enhanced security measures for the Visa Waiver Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to require reporting of terrorist activities and the unlawful distribution of information relating to explosives, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 290

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 290, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any protocol to, or other agreement regarding, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992, negotiated at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris will be considered a treaty requiring the advice and consent of the Senate.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2422. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I speak today regarding the introduction of a bill, cosponsored by Senators BOXER and CARDIN, to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with the authority to obligate and expend appropriated funds in order to begin construction on critical projects in California, Kentucky, Maryland, and Washington. This is time-sensitive legislation, and I am working with my colleague and friend Chairman ISAKSON to move the bill by unanimous consent as soon as a final fiscal year 2016 funding measure is enacted.

Last month, the Senate passed the fiscal year 2016 Military Construction,

Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which provided \$822,800,000 for major construction projects at these Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. This bill passed without a single vote cast against it.

However, the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot spend the money appropriated for fiscal year 2016 and begin construction on these projects because it lacks a separate authorization, which is required by law.

The legislation I am introducing today simply provides the authorization, as required by law, to allow the Department to move forward its fiscal year 2016 projects.

The fiscal year 2016 projects include critical, time-sensitive seismic safety corrections to structures in San Francisco, West Los Angeles, Long Beach, and American Lake. These buildings, which include health care facilities, veteran housing, and a community living center, are at an exceptionally high risk of collapse or suffering severe damage during an earthquake.

If a major earthquake struck in proximity to one of these medical centers while it was in use by veterans and the department's employees, there could be numerous injuries and deaths.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates there is a greater than 99 percent chance that a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake will strike California in the next 30 years.

It is important to note that even less severe earthquakes can cause damage to seismically unsafe buildings that result in injuries and deaths. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services believes that the damage to seismically unfit buildings caused by the magnitude 6.0 earthquake that hit Napa, California on August 24, 2014, at 3:20 a.m., would likely have resulted in many more deaths and injuries if it had struck during business hours when these structures were in use. As it was, the earthquake caused over 200 injuries and one fatality.

In fact, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a 6.0 magnitude earthquake hits California every 1.2 years on average. This is a terrifying figure, and it is why I strongly believe that Congress must enact this legislation without delay.

This is not a hypothetical situation. In 1971, the devastating San Fernando 6.6 magnitude earthquake struck and caused a total of 58 deaths. The older, deficient buildings at the San Fernando VA medical center were demolished, killing 30 patients and 10 staff. The destruction on the Federal Government's VA campus was responsible for the majority of all deaths reported in this earthquake. Had the Federal buildings been structurally sound, there is a likelihood that many of these deaths could have been prevented. If there are any Senators in this body who might want to delay moving the fiscal year 2016 construction authorizations, I urge them to think long and hard about this tragic event.

In 2015, Congress did not authorize the Department's major construction projects until this past September; 10 months after funds were appropriated by Congress in the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus. I believe it would be a huge disservice to our veterans to allow such a lengthy delay to occur again.

More hearings and delays are unnecessary to determine whether the Senate should pass this legislation. The Senate Appropriations Committee held hearings with the Department on these projects as it reviewed the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request. The Senate Committee marked up and reported the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill in a bipartisan fashion. The Senate voted in a unanimous fashion to pass this bill just last month.

I also understand there are concerns about the effectiveness of the Department's construction process, but the Senate's appropriations bill also included important provisions requiring the Department to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on improving the management controls for its next major construction projects.

I want to reiterate that without a separate authorization, the Department cannot start this vital work to protect our veterans and federal employees.

This is exactly why Americans believe that the Federal Government does not work. How does Congress explain this unnecessary delay to veterans who go to medical appointments in the buildings at risk of collapse or major damage? There is no reason to delay authorizing these projects when the money has already been appropriated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in quickly approving this legislation so that the fiscal year 2016 construction projects can move forward. Congress must act before the next earthquake strikes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 338—CONGRATULATING TOWSON UNIVERSITY ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 338

Whereas, on January 15, 1866, Towson University, located in Towson, Maryland, celebrates the founding of the university on January 15, 1866;

Whereas Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution of Maryland, adopted in convention in 1864, called for a uniform system of free public schools for the State of Maryland;

Whereas, in 1865, the General Assembly of Maryland (referred to in this preamble as the "General Assembly") created the State Normal School, which would become Towson University;

Whereas, on January 15, 1866, the State Normal School opened in the Red Men's Hall, located at 24 North Paca Street, in Baltimore, Maryland;

Whereas, in 1875, a law was enacted to authorize construction of a new building for the State Normal School, known as the Carrollton Building;

Whereas the Carrollton Building was erected in West Baltimore at the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Carrollton Avenue;

Whereas the State Normal School remained in the Carrollton Building for almost 40 years;

Whereas, on June 10, 1910, the General Assembly enacted a law to create the Maryland State Normal School Building Commission, which was responsible for—

(1) selecting a new site for the State Normal School; and

(2) preparing plans and estimates for the construction of new buildings;

Whereas, in April of 1912, the General Assembly enacted a law to authorize a \$600,000 bond for the purchase of a new site for the State Normal School;

Whereas, in August of 1912, the Maryland State Normal School Building Commission selected the new site for the State Normal School in Towson, Maryland, where Towson University is located as of the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas the new campus of the State Normal School was constructed on 88 acres of farmland and included 3 buildings, which were known as—

(1) the Administration Building (known on the date of adoption of this resolution as "Stephens Hall");

(2) Newell Hall; and

(3) the Power Plant;

Whereas, on September 15, 1915, the doors of the State Normal School were opened for more than 300 students at its new location in Towson, Maryland;

Whereas, in June of 1935, the name of the State Normal School was changed to the State Teachers College at Towson (referred to in this preamble as the "State Teachers College");

Whereas the name of the State Normal School was changed to the State Teachers College because, in 1935, the General Assembly enacted a law to require teachers to earn a 4-year baccalaureate degree, rather than requiring teachers to earn a 2-year certificate;

Whereas, in 1936, the State Teachers College met standards of accreditation set forth by—

(1) the American Association of Teachers Colleges; and

(2) the American Council on Education;

Whereas the Governor of Maryland, Theodore McKeldin, submitted a capital improvement budget of \$1,172,500 for the State Teachers College—

(1) to construct buildings; and

(2) to acquire 40 acres;

Whereas, in 1963, the State of Maryland—

(1) made the State Teachers College a liberal arts college; and

(2) changed the name of the State Teachers College to Towson State College;

Whereas, from 1960 through 1970, Towson State College carried out a construction program funded by more than \$35,000,000 in Federal and State funds, which necessitated the purchase of land and construction of new buildings;

Whereas, on July 1, 1976, the name of Towson State College was changed to Towson State University;

Whereas, in 1988, higher education in Maryland was restructured to consolidate the State College and University System, of which Towson State University was a part, within the University System of Maryland;

Whereas, in 1996, U.S. News & World Report ranked Towson State University in categories for institutions in the North—

(1) second in the "Most Efficient Schools" category; and

(2) fourth in the "Best Sticker Price" category;

Whereas, in 1997, after years of discussion and debate, the name of Towson State University changed to Towson University, which was considered a step that would—

(1) elevate Towson University in the minds of individuals; and

(2) allow Towson University to develop an identity while remaining in the University System of Maryland;

Whereas, in 1998, U.S. News & World Report ranked Towson University among the top 10 public institutions in the North;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000, and the date of adoption of this resolution, 14 new structures were constructed on the campus of Towson University;

Whereas, in 2001, Towson University joined the Colonial Athletic Association, which is a collegiate conference affiliated with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (commonly known as the "NCAA");

Whereas Towson University has 19 Division I athletic teams;

Whereas, in 2003, the name of Minnegan Stadium at Towson University was changed to Johnny Unitas Stadium in honor of former Baltimore Colts quarterback, Johnny Unitas;

Whereas, in 2013, Towson University in Northeastern Maryland opened, which allows a student of Harford Community College or Cecil College to complete a 4-year degree in any of 6 programs;

Whereas the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security designated Towson University as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense;

Whereas the College of Education at Towson University is the oldest, largest, and pre-eminent producer of teachers in the State of Maryland;

Whereas an economic impact study entitled "Towson University's Economic Impact", published in 2015, found that Towson University had a \$139,400,000 total economic impact on the economy of the State of Maryland between 1866 and 2014;

Whereas Towson University evolved from the State Normal School with 11 students to 1 of the largest universities in Maryland, comprised of 6 distinct colleges with a total enrollment of more than 22,000 students; and

Whereas the sustained commitment of Towson University to teacher education and workforce development has made Towson University—

(1) a driving force for the economy of Maryland; and

(2) a positive influence on the lives of graduates of Towson University and students of graduates of Towson University: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Towson University on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the university;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the administrators, professors, students, and staff of Towson University, who have contributed to the success of Towson University; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the president of Towson University; and

(B) the interim provost and vice president for academic affairs of Towson University.

SENATE RESOLUTION 339—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF LAW FOR 150 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE STATE OF IOWA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WORLD

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 339

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law was founded in 1865, embodies the motto of Iowa, "our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain", and has shaped generations of lawyers who exemplify that motto;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law is the oldest law school in continuous operation west of the Mississippi River;

Whereas, in 1873, the University of Iowa College of Law graduated what is believed to be the first female law student in the United States, Mary Beth Hickey;

Whereas the second female to graduate from the University of Iowa College of Law, Mary Humphrey Haddock, became the first woman admitted to practice before the District and Circuit Courts of the United States;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law was one of the first law schools to grant a degree to an African-American student when Alexander Clark, Jr., who graduated in 1879 and is believed to be the second African-American to graduate from a public law school in the United States, graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law graduated the first United States Attorney of American Indian ancestry;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law has been ranked consistently among the top law schools in the United States since the founding of the College of Law 150 years ago and is currently ranked the 22nd best law school in the United States according to U.S. News and World Report;

Whereas the law journal of the University of Iowa College of Law, the Iowa Law Review, ranks among the high impact legal periodicals in the United States;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law is home to a law library that houses the second largest collection of volumes and volume equivalents among all law school libraries, containing over 1,000,000 volumes and volume equivalents, making it one of the most comprehensive collections of print, microgram, and electronic legal materials in the United States;

Whereas the Law Library at the University of Iowa College of Law is open to the public and provides valuable legal resources for all Iowans;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law serves as the only public law school in Iowa and pursues a mission of providing a legal education that is accessible, affordable, and inclusive;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law provides clinics that offer real-world experience in a wide range of legal fields and pro bono counsel to members of the community;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law strives to produce students that are well-suited for the legal profession, resulting in 99 percent of students of the College of Law completing degrees and 92 percent of students of the College of Law passing the bar exam on the first attempt;

Whereas the University of Iowa College of Law ranks in the top 15 law schools in the United States for graduates in full-time,