

(B) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply on and after February 1, 2017.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2016, at 12 p.m., in room S-216 of the Capitol.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Persistent Threat of North Korea and Developing an Effective U.S. Response.”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATIONAL INTEREST

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Administration’s FY 2017 Refugee Resettlement Program.”

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Daniel Ball, an FCC detailee with the Commerce Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 114th Congress.

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ian Foss, a detailee on the HELP Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for Senator MURRAY

be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today’s session.

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Eric Hanson, a detailee to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the second session of the 114th Congress.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 954

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 954) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, September 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUBIO. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators CARPER and COONS.

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

The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING BETTY DEWHIRST RUSSELL

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of a friend, a

fellow congregant—Betty Dewhirst Russell—someone I have known for a long time and someone I knew as a member of my home church, First and Central Presbyterian in Wilmington, DE.

Earlier today, Betty passed away. I am so honored to have an opportunity on the floor of the Senate to briefly recognize her for her remarkable service to the United States and for her great and soaring spirit.

Betty was a young midwestern girl when she ventured to St. Louis, MO, in 1940, to begin her schooling as a nurse. Upon graduation, she volunteered for service in the U.S. Army. Betty was posted to Longview, TX, for basic training. While in Longview, she would meet her future husband, Lloyd Byron Russell, known as Russ, of Wilmington, DE.

Betty served her country as a first lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps from April 1943 until January 1946 through the 70th General Hospital. Betty served alongside her uncle, Chief Surgeon Colonel L.D. Cassidy. In something that she recounted to me a number of times once I was elected to this body, Betty, during the Second World War and as part of the 70th General Hospital, cared for hundreds and hundreds of American soldiers, among them two who returned home to serve in this body as Senators—Bob Dole of Kansas and Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

Betty received a battle star as the 70th General Hospital was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon. Betty was, understandably, proud of her service, saving so many American lives. One cherished memory that Betty shared with her family was that when she was caring for one particularly badly wounded GI, his last request was to hold close an American flag—a big one, he said. She went to the Red Cross, and they gave her a big American flag. She spread it over his body. He put his arms around it, smiled, and took his last breath.

Betty and Russ were married in Oran, Algeria. Being military and married in a foreign country required cutting through a lot of redtape. They were eventually married twice—once by the French Government and once by the U.S. Army. Betty and Russ returned to live in our hometown of Wilmington, DE, and eventually settled in Hockessin. They were married for 53 years before Russ passed in 1998.

Betty and Russ’s four children were born and raised in Delaware. She served her community faithfully, by helping to establish the Hockessin Well Baby Clinic, by serving as a Cub Scouts den mother, as a volunteer at the junior board of Memorial Hospital, at the Wilmington Flower Market for over 50 years, and as a charter member of the Hockessin Community Club. Betty was also a longtime board member of the Lamborn Library and of the Friends of the Hockessin Library in Hockessin and a faithful member of First and Central Presbyterian Church for 70 years.

Betty has lived a full and wonderful life—full of dedicated service to her faith, her family, and her country. She always saw the best in others, and she always had a hopeful attitude about the day that lay ahead. So I am grateful for having had the opportunity to know Betty for just a few years in our wonderful home State. I am so grateful for the career and the life of service that Betty Russell gave as a gift to all of us in Delaware and in this grateful Nation.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senator CARPER for up to 30 minutes.

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

HONORING CHRISTOPHER LEACH AND JERRY FICKES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that Senator CARPER and I come to the floor this evening to honor Chris Leach and Jerry Fickes, two brave Wilmington firefighters who lost their lives this past Saturday night. In any State or in any community, the loss of a firefighter or police officer is devastating, but in our small State of neighbors, a close-knit State with an even closer knit first responder community, a community that includes families and multiple generations, it is especially hard.

To those who knew Chris and Jerry, it must be little comfort now that we are here on the floor of the U.S. Senate to pay tribute to their lives, but in the next few minutes, we hope to capture just a fraction of the light they brought to their families and our community with their love and service.

Lieutenant Christopher Leach wasn't supposed to be working on Saturday night, but he filled in for another firefighter, likely thinking it would be a shift like any other shift. He was always willing to step forward and serve.

After getting the call that there was a fire in a Canby Park row house, Chris did what he had been training to do since 1993. Chris did what he told his friends, all the way back to Salesianum High School, he always wanted to do as long as they could remember—fight fires.

Chris grew up in the volunteer fire service. He joined the Tallyville Fire Company in 1993 at the age of 18, rising steadily through the ranks of the volunteer fire service to captain. The more time he spent at the firehouse, the more he loved it. Four years later, at age 22, Chris joined the Claymont Fire Company and served as a full-time firefighter and EMT there.

Chris was a lifelong learner, doing whatever he could to develop new skills to support his crewmates and help save lives.

Chris took classes all over our country, from Virginia to Texas, to Cali-

fornia, and his training paid off. In July 2002, at a house fire in Claymont, a firefighter from the ladder company fell through the first floor and into the basement. Chris and two others saved that firefighter's life, earning Chris a series of recognitions, including Fireman of the Year from New Castle County Volunteer Fire Service and the Claymont Fire Company.

Several months later, Chris joined the Wilmington Fire Department, where he was assigned to Engine 4B Platoon. He was only there for a couple of years before being transferred to the Special Operations Command of Engine 1B, where he was quickly recognized for his work, and then Rescue 1B. At the time of his passing, he was serving with Engine 6.

All this time, Chris never stopped learning and improving. He never stopped acting on his passion for firefighting. He researched and applied for and earned a \$200,000 grant for extra training and equipment. He wrote the standard operating procedures for the Special Operations Command. He trained as an instructor in NIMS, the National Incident Management System, and made sure that every Talleyville volunteer member became certified in the NIMS system. He served on the Newcastle County Task Force Rescue Team and earned a bachelor of science degree in fire service administration from Waldorf University.

Throughout a long and distinguished firefighting career, Chris was constantly achieving and growing, saving lives and building new skills. Described by so many I have spoken to as a "firefighter's firefighter," his commitment to his brothers and sisters at the firehouse was relentless. If he thought the department needed something done, he would go do it himself. If the fire company couldn't afford something, he would find a way to make it happen. That commitment went beyond just his professional leadership. I have heard from so many who said Chris was a good, loyal, and faithful friend. He was a softball teammate and also a practical joker, a lover of Billy Joel and Lynyrd Skynyrd, a so-called Mr. Fix-It, and king of nicknames. He was a big guy with a big heart and a deep voice who couldn't hide when he entered a room. Chris was someone who volunteered at the firehouse on his days off and visited elementary schools to talk about his love of firefighting and to help persuade a young generation to join him.

As his friend Andy Millis described him, Chris "was a lieutenant you wanted to work for." He loved his job, he loved his colleagues, and he loved his responsibility, but there was nothing he loved more than his family. His mother Fran, his sister Katie and Katie's wife Carolee, his fiancée Kate and her boys Landon and Casey. Most of all, Chris loved his beautiful children. He said there was nothing greater than being a father to his kids, Brendon, age 16; Abby, 14; and Megan,

12. He took them camping and fishing, to the beach and Cub Scouts, and always found a way to be there for their every activity. Chris lived for his kids.

Chris lost his own father Michael to cancer in 2004 and always kept his dad's funeral card in his helmet. Chris honored his father by being a great dad himself, just as Michael was to him. We can only hope that in the brief time each of us has here, that we shine brightly and relentlessly for the people we love and the community we serve. Few shine as brightly as Chris Leach did.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Delaware Senator CARPER, who will share some words about another hero we also lost on Saturday, senior firefighter Jerry Fickes.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague CHRIS COONS for allowing me to join him and together offer this tribute to Chris Leach and Jerry Fickes.

Earlier today, the floor was busy with activity—and really joyful activity—as Democrats and Republicans tried to work together to come to an agreement on a spending plan to fund our government past the end of this fiscal year and into the beginning of the coming fiscal year. We worked out some difficult compromises. There was actually a lot of joy here as we said goodbye to one another and headed for our respective States until after the election.

So on the heels of what was really a rather joyous afternoon comes a far more serious one, and that is the opportunity to say goodbye and to say thank you to a couple of Delawareans who were really true public servants who tragically lost their lives this past weekend in trying to save the lives of others—Chris Leach and Jerry Fickes. I am going to talk about Jerry, since Senator COONS has shared with us some wonderful words about Lieutenant Chris Leach.

On Saturday, Jerry Fickes, a 13-year veteran of the Wilmington Fire Department, rushed into a burning home along with his colleague, Chris and others, when a member of the team believed to be Chris became trapped in the blaze.

They were told, I understand from those who were present at the fire, that when the Wilmington Fire Department showed up, they were led to believe that there were people inside the house; the house was on fire, and they needed to be saved. Once inside the building, I think they went into the basement, but the floor above them apparently gave way, and their lives were lost in that fire.

Two other firefighters were critically burned, and, hopefully, they are going to live, but one was burned on 70 percent of her body. Our hopes and prayers are with her and with her fellow colleague who also received very serious burn damage.

Jerry Fickes was a husband, a father, a U.S. Army veteran, and a beloved