

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STAN  
WEAVER

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor one of the great sons of Illinois, Senator Stan Weaver, who after selflessly donating forty-five years of his life to the State of Illinois is retiring from public service. In 1957, he began a twelve-year tenure as the mayor of my hometown of Urbana, IL. Weaver was later elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1968, where he served one term before his election to the Illinois Senate in 1970.

While Senator, Weaver served as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and was a ranking member of the Senate Executive and Appropriations Committees as well as the Operations Commission. In 1997 he served in the newly created position of Senate Majority Leader after serving as assistant Senate Leader for twenty-two years. As a lawmaker, Stan's priorities have always been those of the people of the 52nd District, including quality of education, agriculture and economic development. He has proven to be a strong advocate for the University of Illinois and has helped it become one of the most prestigious examples of higher education in the nation.

Before entering public service, Stan Weaver graduated from Urbana public schools, attended Michigan State College, the University of Illinois, and graduated from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science. During World War II, Stan admirably served his country in the Army Air Force in the Southwest Pacific Theater.

In addition to his busy political career, Stan has found time to be a devoted father and grandfather to his son Blake, daughter Sherry, and to his two wonderful granddaughters, Lindsey and Jessica.

Besides being his community's state senator, Stan Weaver is heavily involved in several public organizations. He is the past president of the Illinois Municipal League, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, member of the Mohammed Temple and of the International Chili Society. He also belongs to the Masonic Lodge, where he earned the rare distinction of 33rd Degree Mason because of his long-time dedicated service.

When Stan retires, his legacy to the State of Illinois will be one of quiet, effective leadership and commitment to the greater good. Whenever he rose to speak, people recognized his command of the issues, and colleagues from both political parties held him in the highest esteem. It has been my honor to know and serve with Senator Stan Weaver in the Illinois General Assembly. As the longest serving senator of his time, he will always be remembered as a powerful force in the Illinois Senate and his dedication to public service shall be sorely missed.

THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND  
ST. PATRICKS DAY 2003

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this St. Patrick's Day on behalf of the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress as we proudly reflect upon the ties that bind America and the island of Ireland.

We extend a warm welcome to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and to the political leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland who have traveled to America to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us. We would like to recognize and commend President Bush's commitment to the peace process and to the promotion of reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We would also like to recognize Ambassador Richard Haass for the important and constructive role he has played in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

This year we mark the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which holds the promise of ensuring a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland and a stable and inclusive government for all the people of Northern Ireland. The Friends of Ireland stand firmly with those political leaders who are steadfastly working to ensure that the Good Friday Agreement will be fully implemented and that political institutions of Northern Ireland will be restored for once and for all.

Since the Good Friday agreement we are seeing a more stable economy in Northern Ireland. Unemployment is down dramatically in both communities, inward investment is up strongly, and Northern Ireland is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

We encourage all the parties to take the necessary steps for peace, and we look forward to the cessation of all paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland, the demilitarization of Northern Ireland, the growth of a police force that represents and protects all the people of Northern Ireland, and the enactment of justice and equality laws that serve all the people of Northern Ireland.

We commend this progress and encourage greater and mutually beneficial economic links between the island of Ireland and the United States. The 44 million Americans of Irish descent share these goals, and join us in wishing the people of the island of Ireland a happy St. Patrick's Day.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,  
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE  
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5, legislation to ensure that patients

have access to quality medical care by bringing balance to our medical liability system.

The purpose of the medical liability system is to provide a remedy for patients who have been harmed by negligent actions on the part of providers. But excessive litigation, legal action filed without legitimate cause, can lead to patient harm. Women who cannot find obstetricians for high risk pregnancies, and trauma patients who do not have access to appropriate medical care, suffer when doctors have been driven from practice due to high litigation expense. Doctors who must practice defensive medicine increase the cost of health care for everyone and put their patients through unnecessary procedures.

Many States have struggled to bring reforms to their liability systems. Indiana, fortunately, has not been one of them. Over 20 years ago, Indiana reformed its medical liability system. Today, patients are compensated quickly without endless litigation, doctors have reasonable malpractice insurance rates and the medical community provides quality care to Hoosier patients.

It is my understanding that under H.R. 5 Indiana will be able to retain the core aspects of its medical liability system. These include, the medical review panel requirement, the total compensation cap, and the limit on providers' liability. It is also my understanding that there is nothing in H.R. 5 that would prevent other States from adopting a medical liability system that includes such elements.

I urge the adoption of H.R. 5 to bring common sense back to our medical liability system.

HONORING DR. JERRY SHEN

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on February 28th the St. Louis area lost one of its leading physicians and a committed advocate of the sacredness of human life, Dr. Jerry Shen.

Dr. Shen was a Harvard-trained pediatrician, a pioneer in the field of adolescent medicine whose commitment to the young people of my great home state of Missouri was legendary. But that commitment had roots not in the Show-Me state but in Dr. Shen's native land of China.

When the Communists seized power in China, Dr. Shen and his family were on the last boat out and traveled on expired passports. He and his family had faith that God would take care of them, and in His great mercy, He did.

Dr. Shen was someone whose medical knowledge and Catholic faith animated his belief that human personhood should be protected from the moment of conception until natural death. He was instrumental in founding the Missouri Right-to-Life movement, which regularly has one of the largest delegations to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the annual March for Life in January here in our nation's capital.

As a former board member of Missouri Right-to-Life, I knew the work of Dr. Shen well and admired it greatly.

Dr. Shen was a man of action. He admired Mother Theresa's work and told his family he was going to convince her to bring her Sisters of Charity to St. Louis to work with the poor. Many in the community were doubtful but Dr. Shen moved forward and today, the Sisters are in the City of St. Louis. In fact, a full row of the Sisters were at Dr. Shen's funeral mass.

Dr. Shen's funeral mass was about "Choosing Life," a text taken from Deuteronomy 30:5-12. Archbishop Justin Rigali of the Diocese of St. Louis quoted the Apostle Paul in referring to Dr. Shen, noting that he had "fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith."

There can be few higher epitaphs than that. Dr. Shen did, indeed, fight faithfully and well for the right to life that our Declaration of Independence affirms is intrinsic to all of us. For that, he deserves the thanks of a grateful nation. He certainly has mine.

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#### NO CFCs FOR 25 YEARS

### HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate this Saint Patrick's Day and all that is green, I would like to point to another important "green" milestone associated with March 17. Twenty-five years ago, on March 17, 1978, the Environmental Protection Agency promulgated regulations prohibiting the further use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) propellants from almost all aerosol products manufactured and sold in the United States. Even before that date, many U.S. manufacturers of aerosols voluntarily removed CFCs in response to environmental concerns linking CFCs to the depletion of the earth's protective ozone layer.

Today, CFCs are used in only very rare and special circumstances, such as for medical uses like asthma inhalers, and even many of these "essential uses" are switching to non-CFC alternatives. Under the Montreal Protocol, more than 160 countries joined the United States and agreed to cease production of CFCs except for medical products.

When environmental concerns over the impact of CFCs on the ozone first arose, producers undertook the extremely difficult and costly task of reformulating and retesting hundreds of products in order to assure that the new propellants would perform as well as CFC propellants had. But importantly, the U.S. aerosol industry not only complied with the 1978 regulation, it in fact led the way for the rest of the world.

Unfortunately though, public perception has not caught up with reality. Public opinion polls, taken as recently as last year, have found that nearly half of all consumers—48%—are still unaware of the 25-year-old regulations that prohibit the use of CFCs in aerosols. This has often led consumers, unaware that aerosols cause no harm to the Earth's protective ozone layer, to bypass today's environmentally safe aerosol products.

Research has shown that consumers are still being influenced by incorrect information regarding the environmental impact of aerosols and many are avoiding them as a result. This is unfortunate because there are a number of inherent benefits to be gained from the aerosol delivery system, such as the consistency of an aerosol spray which minimizes waste.

Shaving cream, hair spray, spray paint, bug spray, fragrant body sprays, spray starch, and aerosol air fresheners, just to mention a few, are all aerosol products. And like all aerosol products, these do not contain CFCs. In addition to being CFC free, most aerosol packages are made of steel which, when empty, are also recyclable in many communities.

The companies in the aerosol industry have worked hard to produce products that are efficacious and environmentally sound. In other words, they work, and they don't harm the Earth's protective ozone layer. The more than 100,000 Americans directly employed in the aerosol industry are proud of their companies and their products, and rightly so.

March 17 will always be a day when we associate the color green with St. Patrick's Day, but it should also be a date that reminds us that U.S.-produced aerosols have been CFC free and environmentally friendly since 1978.

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#### A VETERAN'S OPINION

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a letter to the editor that was printed in The Manchester Enterprise, of Manchester, Michigan, written by one of my constituents, Larry Byrne, a Vietnam veteran.

"To the editor:

'Manchester Area People for Peace,' . . . if not for using the Manchester name in your group's cause, I'd never taken the time to write this article.

I know as a Marine Corps Sergeant serving two hours of duty in Vietnam, my views may be slightly different from those that are active in the 'people for peace' camp. I do hope you realize this doesn't mean the rest of us that enjoy living in our peaceful community would rather live elsewhere, just because we don't share your views on this serious matter.

Peace is a state of mind that the majority of Americans have the right and privilege to share. We should never take it for granted nor believe that it didn't come at a very high cost. Hundreds of thousands of men and women gave their lives so that we could live in peace.

Our country has made its mistakes throughout its history when it comes to war. Maybe we should have helped remove a crazed paperhanger much earlier than we did, but as Pearl Harbor was bombed they talked peace.

Maybe we should have not been drawn into the Vietnam 'crisis.' I was sent to Vietnam after some 35,000 Americans gave their lives doing what their country requested of them. I was only 19 at the time and I'll never forget discussing with other Marines the hurt and anger we'd feel when we would read the Stars & Stripes newspaper. Articles and pictures showing our fellow Americans protesting back home only seemed to demoralize us and

strengthen our enemy. This brings us to current events. Does anyone really believe Iraq's hostile government or any terrorist organizations would not let us live in peace if not for the threat of war? Therefore, it seems this great nation of ours with all its flaws has been give the role of 'peacekeeper.' To those of you don't like this position for our country, I ask . . . to whom do we give it? Germany would have gladly taken the role of 60 years ago, but now they just want to direct the leaders.

Japan, like Germany, somewhat graciously relinquished the role and decided to build better cars.

Canada—just joking, eh?

From France, a newspaper ad: 'French military rifle for sale. Never fired, dropped once.'

United Nations? Please, the UN has proven totally ineffective with the Iraq situation.

On the other hand, what if nobody did anything? I don't know if isolationism could work in our small world today, but if we were all willing to give up a lot, who knows?

A new song came out called, "Have you Forgotten." I suggest as you're walking on the bridge with your peace signs you listen to it. Who knows, you may learn something. By the way, don't try this in Tieneman Square.

Personally and perhaps most of us that served in our country's military, especially in Vietnam, would appreciate you not using our town's name of Manchester to promote your ideas. Again, I respect your rights and privileges to do so, but don't draft me by name association to be a participant in your point of view.

Da Nang, 1969 or Manchester 2003—strong believes don't change . . . you're hurting us and helping them."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Byrne for writing this letter.

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate the member of the Morris Robotics Team from Morris High School in the South Bronx for their remarkable work and achievements.

Three years ago, thanks to Gary Israel, a history teacher, and a \$5,000 award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the school started a robotics team. Mr. Israel campaigned to raise \$25,000 from local sponsors, encouraged skeptical parents and faculty, and gathered a team of 15 students who built a robot named Bulldog. This robot placed 3rd out of 38 at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) regional competition in New York, demonstrating the robot's agility and basketball skills, as well as its creators' teamwork. The Morris team worked with graduate students from Columbia University's School of Engineering to construct the robot, combining the technical knowledge of the engineers with the mechanical abilities of the teenagers.

Morris High School has received support from many sponsors, such as: the Columbia University School of Engineering, the Fu Foundation and Applied Science, NASA, the

North Folk Bank, the McGraw Hill Companies, the New York Yankees, ABC, and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. Secretary of State Colin Powell, a graduate of Morris High, presented the members of the Morris Robotics Team a gold coin in honor of the team's achievements over the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, the Morris Robotics Team has mentored students at I.S. 162 since they decided to join in the FIRST Lego League competition and looked for support. Morris High School students have been working at the school since October 2002, and thanks to this, on February 8, 2003, members of the Morris Robotics Team and I.S. 162 students competed for and won the 2003 First Lego Competition Director's Award. The Director's Award is given to the team that is best in five key elements of the Technical and Team Performance Awards.

Morris High School also competed the weekend of March 8 with 60 other high schools around the country in competition for mentoring/coaching a winning middle school team. The Morris Robotics Team is the only New York City high school that has traveled to Richmond, Virginia, to compete in the NASA/Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) South-Atlantic Regional FIRST Robotics Competition on March 6–8. On Friday, at the conclusion of the first day of competition, Morris High School won the Imagery Award, which celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of the robot and the team appearance. At the end of the competition on Saturday, March 9, the Morris Robotics Team received the top trophy as the South Atlantic FIRST Robotics Winner. The Morris Team has the opportunity to be a dual regional winner when they compete in the New York City High School Robotics Regionals on March 21 and 22.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the members of the team: Sherelle Benjamin, Malik Shuford, Sashanna Saunchess, Angel Alvarado, Walson Ty, Makeba Higgins, Tyrue Green, Jose Vanderpool, Mark Banks, Isaias Guity, Alison Green, Cruz Mayelyn De Los Santos, Uche Nwosu, Daniel Nwosu and Edwin Ruiz.

This team has demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I am confident they will continue to be successful. They are terrific examples for students throughout our schools and communities.

Again, I congratulate them and I wish them the best of luck in their future activities and

competitions. They are our champions and our future leaders!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating the Morris High School Robotics Team in the South Bronx.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,  
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE  
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the bill before the House, H.R. 5, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2003. I believe it is important that Congress act to address the medical malpractice crisis that has begun to threaten access to care around the country.

I will vote for this legislation because I view our current medical malpractice system as in a state of crisis, and I think it is important to begin the legislative process needed to preserve access to care for all Americans. I do, however, believe that that the bill could be improved and I encourage our colleagues in the Senate to be open to constructive suggestions that address legitimate concerns from members on both sides of the aisle. For example, I am concerned that the \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages in this bill is too low. As a former state insurance commissioner, I recognize that caps can be useful to providing predictability and stability in the insurance market. But I also believe that a higher cap on such damages would be more appropriate without undermining predictability or significantly raising premiums.

I think it is important that we recognize that there are other dynamics of the medical malpractice crisis that need to be considered, and we should view this reform proposal as only one part of a comprehensive solution. Just this week, as my colleagues know, the House passed legislation that I cosponsored dealing with medical errors reporting and reduction, creating what is intended to be a "feedback loop" for health care systems. I hope my colleagues will share my view that once the House passes this medical malpractice reform bill, it will mark only the beginning of a dialogue to help stabilize our health care system

while protecting appropriate consumer remedies. To be certain, this is a difficult balance to strike within a complex set of issues, and I urge my House and Senate colleagues alike to remain open to bipartisan efforts to improve this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to travel to Washington for the legislative week beginning on March 10, 2003 as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. I have included a letter from my physician stating that his medical judgment was that I not drive or fly extensively for the week after the accident. Had I been present in Washington for votes, it was my intention to vote in the following ways:

Rollcall No. 50—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 51—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 52—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 53—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 54—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 55—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 56—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 57—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 58—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 59—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 60—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 61—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 62—"aye."  
Rollcall No. 63—"no."  
Rollcall No. 64—"no."

CARLE TRAUMA CENTER,  
*Urbana, IL, March 11, 2003.*

Re Mr. Tim Johnson.

*To Whom It May Concern:*

U.S. Representative Tim Johnson was hospitalized at Carle Foundation Hospital under my care the week of March 9th due to trauma suffered in a car accident. It was my medical judgment that he not fly or drive extensively for at least a week after the trauma. It would be dangerous and potentially life-threatening if he were to do so given the trauma to his lungs and rib cage, and potential damage to lungs and/or heart.

Sincerely,

URETZ J. OLIPHANT, MD, FACS,

*Director, Trauma Services.*

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## MARCH 19

9 a.m.

Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the fiscal year 2004 proposed budget estimates for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-124

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine non-proliferation programs of the Department of State.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine ethical regenerative medicine research and human reproductive cloning.

SD-226

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on acquisition policy and outsourcing issues.

SR-222

Rules and Administration

To hold oversight hearings to examine the operations of the Secretary of the Senate and the Architect of the Capitol.

SR-301

10 a.m.

Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of the Army.

SD-192

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 15, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the payment of compensation for certain individuals with injuries resulting from the administration of smallpox countermeasures, to provide protections and countermeasures against chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents that may be used in a terrorist attack against the United States, and to improve immunization rates by increasing the distribu-

tion of vaccines and improving and clarifying the vaccine injury compensation program, proposed legislation entitled "Lifespan Respite Care Act", proposed legislation entitled "Pediatric Drugs Research Authority", and pending nominations.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the effects and consequences of an emerging China.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 424, to establish, reauthorize, and improve energy programs relating to Indian tribes, and S. 522, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to assist Indian tribes in developing energy resources.

SR-485

3 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the National Guard and Reserve military and civilian personnel programs.

SH-216

## MARCH 20

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation amending the Clean Air Act regarding fuel additives and renewable fuels.

SD-406

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy.

SH-216

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine issues related to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed rule on the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original bill to authorize Appropriations for Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria programs, and other pending calendar business.

SD-419

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine possible terrorist threats on cargo containers.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Commerce.

S-146 Capitol

Appropriations

Interior Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year

2004 for the Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

SD-124

Appropriations

VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the fiscal year 2004 budget request for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-138

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine legislative presentations of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs.

345 Cannon Building

10:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vernon Bernard Parker, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

SR-328A

Aging

To hold hearings to examine Medicare, focusing on prescription drugs.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Space Shuttle Columbia, focusing on the future of space policy.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine how to make embassies safer in areas of conflict.

SD-419

## MARCH 21

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on science and technology programs and the role of Defense laboratories.

SR-325

## MARCH 25

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine Medicare's financial crisis, focusing on the long-term financial viability of the program, proposals to add a prescription drug benefit and other reforms.

SD-628

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alfred Plamann, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, and Thomas Waters Grant, of New York, Noe Hinojosa, Jr., of Texas, and William Robert Timken, Jr., of Ohio, each to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the Washington Teachers Union.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources  
National Parks Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine National Trail designations and the potential impact of National Trails on

private lands, communities, and activities within the viewshed of the trails, and S. 324, to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for certain trails in the National Trails System.

SD-366

MARCH 26

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider proposed legislation entitled "Caring for Children Act of 2003", proposed legislation entitled "Genetics Information Non-discrimination Act of 2003", and other pending calendar business.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of child nutrition programs.

SR-328A

Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Air Force.

SD-192

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, focusing on the role and funding of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources  
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine issues uncovered as a result of the Blue Ribbon Panel's report of findings on Aerial Fire Fighting Safety and responses to the report.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services  
Strategic Forces Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management and Office of Legacy Management.

SR-222

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to be followed by closed hearings (in Room SH-219).

SH-216

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine health care transmission of global AIDS in Africa.

SD-430

APRIL 2

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine S. 556, to amend the Indian Health Care Improve-

ment Act to revise and extend that Act.

SR-485

APRIL 8

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the Mammography Quality Standards Act.

SD-430

POSTPONEMENTS

MARCH 19

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services  
Strategic Forces Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on strategic forces and policy, to be followed by a closed session in SR-222.

SR-232A

MARCH 20

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services  
SeaPower Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the U.S. Transportation Command.

SR-232A