

such reimbursement otherwise required under these regulations.

(b) Any office head, employee, or other individual who is aggrieved by any final action of the Sergeant at Arms under these regulations involving the matter of reimbursement may petition the Committee on Rules and Administration for a review of such action. On the basis of such petition, the Committee is authorized to approve, disapprove, or modify the action taken by the Sergeant at Arms, and, in the case of any such disapproval or modification, to direct the Sergeant at Arms to take action in conformity therewith.

EQUIPMENT OBTAINED UNDER SECTION 506(A)(9) OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1973 (2 U.S.C. 58(A)(9))

Sec. 9. The provisions of these regulations shall apply to equipment purchased, leased, or otherwise acquired by a Senator with funds available under section 506(a)(9) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973 (2 U.S.C. 58(a)(9)) and to equipment purchased by a committee or an officer of the Senate with appropriated funds. For purposes of these regulations, any equipment so acquired shall be treated as having been requested from the Sergeant at Arms, and as having been made available by him on the date on which it is delivered and installed in the office of the Senator.

FORMS FOR THE DELEGATION AND TRANSFER OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 10. In the case of equipment issued, reassigned, or otherwise made available on or after the effective date of these regulations, delegations and transfers of accountability for equipment covered by these regulations shall be documented on forms, the content and format of which are set forth below.

[Applicable forms are supplied by the Sergeant at Arms' Equipment Division when making equipment assignments or reassignments.]

DE MINIMIS EXCEPTION FOR USE OF SENATE EQUIPMENT

Sec. 11. It is the normal and standing policy of the Senate that official Senate resources may only be used in connection with official business. However, in recognition of the infrequent need for authorized users of official Senate resources or equipment to take care of occasional personal matters during normal business hours, pursuant to S. Res 238 (108th Congress, 1st Session), the de minimis use of official Senate resources (i.e. computers, Internet services, cellular telephones, copiers and facsimile machines and other such similar devices) is hereby permitted.

For purposes of this policy, "de minimis use" is defined as the incidental, unofficial use of Senate resources or equipment when such use is significantly negligible in nature and frequency and at nominal expense to the government. Such use must also not create the appearance of impropriety. The de minimis use of official resources as described herein is considered to be in the interest of the Senate. The de minimis uses permitted herein are only acceptable when such uses are performed without measurable interference to the performance of the official duties of the authorized user and are in compliance with the Senate Code of Official Conduct.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to permit the use of Internet services or any other official resources for partisan, political or campaign purposes—such use is strictly prohibited under any circumstances. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to permit the use of official Senate resources for any commercial activity or any income-generating purpose or for any other illegal activity.

It is the responsibility of each Senator, Committee Chairman, Officer of the Senate, or administrative office head to oversee the use of of-

icial Senate resources by their office and to ensure that the use is consistent with the requirements established by this policy as well as any other applicable laws and regulations. Nothing contained in the above policy shall prevent a Senator, Committee Chairman, Officer of the Senate or administrative office head from adopting a more restrictive de minimis use policy.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLOTTE MORELAND

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I want to honor an extraordinary person and one of my most dedicated staff who is retiring from service in the United States Senate, Charlotte Moreland.

For 19 years, Charlotte has worked in my DC office, joining my team during my very first year in the Senate. And for all these years, Charlotte has always been an advocate for West Virginia. Starting in my personal office, Charlotte moved to the Veterans Committee when I became Chairman and found herself developing a voice and sense of duty for veterans in West Virginia and across our country. Over the years, she listened patiently as they expressed their concerns about a disability claim or health care. She took note as they told their stories of bravery and sacrifice. She remembered the details of their lives that made the difference in getting them the benefits they had earned. Charlotte then took those stories to help craft legislation to improve benefits for all veterans.

She spoke eloquently on behalf of these veterans. As Charlotte often would tell those around her, VA is the second largest department in the United States, right behind the Department of Defense, and I have no doubt that many working for VA have heard the voice of Charlotte Moreland. Her voice was gentle, but firm, when urging VA to take a second look at a claim or to check their records for something they may have missed initially. But I have to tell you, this same voice would rise a few notches and not back down to get attention for a veteran whom she felt was being treated unfairly on a claim, unable to get medical treatment, or to ensure that a veteran got proper recognition with a headstone to pay one last respect to their service. When those times came, I often wondered how Charlotte maintained such a friendly working relationship with those at VA. She always smiled at me and said it was because they knew her heart was in the right place.

For West Virginia veterans, she has been a tireless advocate. Whenever Charlotte saw a gap in services or an unmet need, she worked to fill it. Our State's four VA Medical Centers received numerous visits from Charlotte, and the facilities are better because of those visits. Over the years, West Virginia has expanded the number of veteran centers and community-based outpatient clinics so that veterans can have quality services nearby. Charlotte has made a real difference in the lives of many veterans and their families.

Charlotte Moreland is retiring from my office after a distinguished career. You need look no further than the plaques and awards she has received from Veterans Service Organizations to know that she will be missed. You can hear praise in the telephone calls and the compliments in countless letters to my office to know that she will be missed. I am very proud that Charlotte Moreland has been on my staff for these many years, and I wish her all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHARLES E. KRUSE

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is my honor and great privilege to recognize my fellow Missourian and personal friend, Mr. Charles E. Kruse, president of Missouri Farm Bureau. Mr. Kruse has been recently awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the highest honor awarded to Eagle Scouts by the Great Rivers Council. Today I am proud to join with family and friends to recognize and honor Mr. Kruse on this occasion.

I have, over the course of my career, worked with Charlie Kruse on many occasions and have come to know him as a great friend and close ally on behalf of agriculture. In 1983, as Governor, I appointed Charlie to serve on the University of Missouri Board of Curators. Since his appointment Charlie went on to serve as director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, as the sole Missourian on President Bush's Council on Rural America, Brigadier General of the National Guard, and as the exclusive vice president of North American Equipment Dealers Association.

Since August of 1992, Charlie has solidified his longtime friendship with the Missouri farmer by serving as president of the Missouri Farm Bureau. He is a fourth generation farmer; is on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors; has served on numerous Presidential commissions making recommendations on farm, tax, trade and environmental policies, and; he is married to Pam—the lady whose name is on the farm combine and who harvests corn at home when Charlie is harvesting awards around the country.

Charlie has been a close friend and advisor for as long as I have been in the Senate and longer than either of us care to admit. He has contributed immeasurably to his community, State and country. He is the product of generations of rural ancestors and is blessed to be deputy commander of his own terrific family. His tireless and enthusiastic contributions and his family inspire his love and inspiration. Charlie is as good a friend as rural America could ever have. We congratulate him for this important recognition and thank him for his for your service to our country. •

2003 PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate two Virginians, Dr. Edward Ayers and Dr. Patty Hale, on their recent selection as Professors of the Year. This award, given by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is a major accomplishment as only four national awards are given out each year. Dr. Ayers was recognized as Outstanding Doctoral and Research College Professor of the Year, and Dr. Hale was recognized as Outstanding Master's University and College Professor of the Year.

While I have not had the pleasure of meeting with these individuals personally, I have reviewed their qualifications. These two individuals, who have dedicated large portions of their lives to higher learning and to educating tomorrow's leaders, are imminently qualified for these awards. How fortunate we are in Virginia to have two such distinguished professors.

Dr. Edward Ayers is a Professor of History and Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. An expert in Southern history, Dr. Ayers has taught for over 20 years and has authored numerous books. In 2000, he was appointed to the National Council for the Humanities by President Clinton, and in 2002, he was named to the Executive Board of the National Council for History Education. He has also been recognized for excellence in teaching, having received the Arthur Stocker Award for Outstanding Teaching from the ODK Honor Society at U.Va. and the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia.

In addition, Dr. Ayers has created an innovative online program, the Valley of the South Project, which is a digital archive that allows people from around the world to explore the history of the Civil War. Four million people have visited the Valley of the South Project to explore the issues surrounding the coming, fighting, and aftermath of the Civil War. The Project has also won the critical acclaim of Dr. Ayers' peers, garnering the James Harvey Robinson Prize from the American Historical Association and the E-Lincoln Prize for Best Digital Project.

Dr. Patty Hale is a Professor of Nursing at Lynchburg College, in Lynchburg, VA. At Lynchburg College, she has won several teaching awards, including the State Council of Higher Education Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award.

One of Dr. Hale's most successful ventures has been her collaboration with four of her students on writing two directories of their community's health and social services. These booklets have been distributed free of charge to area residents and health professionals and have enhanced the knowledge and patronage of area health resources.

Her work has earned Dr. Hale great respect and honors in her community,

including the James A. Huston Excellence in Scholarship Award. Dr. Hale is committed to serving those less fortunate and has invested countless hours in forging community relationships to help disadvantaged people in her area. She and her students have started programs to provide health services to residents at several area shelters, clinics, and neighborhood health centers, most of which serve inner city low-income populations.

I commend both Dr. Ayers and Dr. Hales for the excellence in education, and am pleased to recognize them as recipients of Professors of the Year. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED ON 10/30/2003

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1720. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, establishing, and updating patient care facilities at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, to provide by law for the establishment and functions of the Office of Research Oversight in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

The following bill was re-referred to the following committee, by unanimous consent:

S. 139. A bill to provide for a program of scientific research on abrupt climate change, to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States by establishing a market-driven system of greenhouse gas tradeable allowances that could be used interchangeably with passenger vehicle fuel economy standard credits, to limited greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and reduce dependence upon foreign oil, and ensure benefits to consumers from the trading in such allowances to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1805. A bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

S. 1806. A bill to prohibit civil liability actions from brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1279. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area (Rept. No. 108-183).

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 1262. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006 for certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-184).

By Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1248. A bill to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-185).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1812. A bill to amend the Home Owner's Loan Act to clarify the citizenship of Federal savings associations for purposes of Federal court jurisdiction; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1813. A bill to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1814. A bill to transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. CRAPO):

S.J. Res. 22. A joint resolution recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. Res. 257. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should