

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2003, at 10 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to consider S. 1529, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act amendments of 2003; S. 1721, the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2003; and S. Res. 248, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the Individual Indian Money Account Trust Funds lawsuit.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Carol Madonna, a legislative fellow at my personal office, be permitted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1588, the Defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2004.

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

Mr. DAYTON. I ask unanimous consent that LTC Gregg Blanchard, a military fellow in my office, be given floor privileges for the rest of this debate.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 267, H.R. 2861, VA-HUD appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2861) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask unanimous consent that Senate resume consideration of the bill at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 12, 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. on

Wednesday there be 20 minutes equally divided for debate prior to a vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense authorization bill; provided further that immediately following that vote, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2559, the Military Construction appropriations bill.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 7

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7, the Charitable Giving bill. I further ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken; that the Snowe amendment and the Grassley-Baucus amendment which are at the desk be agreed to en bloc; that the substitute amendment which is the text of S. 476, the Senate-passed version of the Charitable Giving bill as amended by the Snowe and Grassley and Baucus amendments, be agreed to; that the bill as amended be read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; further, that the Senate insist upon its amendments and request a conference with the House; and lastly, that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees with the ratio of 3 to 2; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, we have heard a lot on our side about the CARE Act. Let me say we are strongly committed to it. We have worked with the majority on a bipartisan basis to avoid the policy disagreements and pass a bill that increases the resources desperately needed by the charitable community.

We strongly support the vital funding for the Social Services Block Grant. The Senate bill restores the Social Services Block Grant to full funding of \$2.8 billion. However, the House provides no such provision.

These grants are used to fund a range of social services, with recipients ranging from children in need of day care or protective services, to elderly or disabled individuals in need of home-delivered meals.

These funds today are urgently needed. We have heard from organizations across the country and across the political spectrum that tell us how important this money is, including: America needs a powerful mobilization of civic energies and a substantial increase in resources, public and private, to confront widespread poverty and social problems. We also need closer and more effective collaboration between the Government and this country's community organizations.

It is because of our strong commitment to this funding and our concern

about what has been happening in conferences that we are here today. Democrats believe that through prompt passage of the reconciled CARE and Charitable Giving Acts, Congress will provide the leadership to translate these concerns to action.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask consent that the leader would modify his request to provide for all the provisions of his request, except the portion on going to conference. We stand ready now to pass this bill and send it to the House, just as we have done on several bills in the past week—for example, the military tax bill. Just today we amended and passed the Syrian Accountability Act. It is not unusual for the Senate to send a measure to the House with an amendment, just as we are now suggesting with respect to H.R. 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader modify his request?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I object to the proposed modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard with respect to the proposed modification.

Mr. REID. I object to the leader's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the unanimous consent request.

VETERANS DAY 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 264, a sense-of-the-Senate resolution regarding Veterans Day, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 264) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Veterans Day 2003.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, November 11 was originally known as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I. In 1938, Congress declared November 11 a national holiday in the hopes that the world would never ever again see a battle so fierce and so devastating as that First World War, but that was not to be.

Only a few years later, World War II broke out in Europe. America would lose 407,000 servicemen in battle. Henceforth, the movement began to recognize our heroes in uniform.

In 1954, President Eisenhower proclaimed November 11 Veterans Day. He told the Nation at that time that it was his "earnest hope that all veterans, their organizations, and the entire citizenry will join hands to ensure proper and widespread observance of this day."

Today, nearly 50 years later, we join hands to pay tribute to that very special group of people who have brought our country such honor, whose courage and whose sacrifice have secured our

liberty: the men and women of the Armed Forces; people such as Senator DANIEL INOUE, who fought so valiantly in World War II and earned the highest award that can be bestowed, the Medal of Honor; Senator MCCAIN, who served with singular courage and sacrifice in Vietnam; Senator STEVENS, a World War II Air Force pilot, who earned two distinguished Flying Crosses, two Air Medals, and the Yuan Hai medal from the Republic of China. JOHN WARNER, CHUCK HAGEL, and FRITZ HOLLINGS are also Members of this distinguished body who served in battle with honor and with courage.

It is because of them and over 46 million veterans since our Nation's founding that we are today free—free to debate in these Halls of Congress, free to raise our families with the values that we choose. It is because of the sacrifices of these special Americans that we have the freedom to live as fully and as completely as our imaginations will allow, to realize those blessings of liberty.

The last 2 years have put these blessings in stark relief. On September 11, when our enemies struck, and the billows of smoke were rising out of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon here in Washington, DC, and in that pulverized plane on a Pennsylvania field, we saw that determined face of evil.

But as clear as the blue sky above—and who will ever forget that bright, stark, blue sky on that morning?—we saw the blessings of liberty. We relearned that freedom indeed is precious and that freedom must be defended.

Since that day a new generation of men and women have heard the calling—so young yet so brave. They are taking the battle to the enemy. The men and women in the Armed Forces are proving every day that America is a courageous and a compassionate nation, and that our cause is just.

We are blessed to have such heroes among us. Today we honor them as well. We are working with the President to improve our veterans' quality of life by securing the benefits afforded to them for their service. Access to quality care is critical to our veterans. Veterans hospitals have been the focal point of veterans' health care delivery.

We are also working to improve the hospital system to allow disabled veterans to collect, over 10 years, the portions of their pensions that they do not receive under current law. Veterans with combat-related injuries and those who are considered 50-percent disabled would qualify for these benefits. It is our intent to have this legislation enacted this year.

For our future veterans, we have expanded funding to support our troops. In the 2004 emergency Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill, military personnel salaries and benefits were increased to \$17.8 billion for Guard and Reserve troops activated for duty.

In addition, much of the funding in this supplemental appropriations bill

will be used to support military operations and provide needed equipment to our troops overseas.

We are also working to help our fighting men and women by improving veterans health care and the TRICARE program for our armed services. The recently enacted supplemental bill increases TRICARE benefits to thousands of members of the Guard and Reserve.

In these and other concrete ways, we are working hard to support those whose serve us so ably. In doing so, we not only recognize their contribution, we recognize the great purpose of our Nation.

In the midst of the Revolution, the great essayist Thomas Paine told his fellow Americans:

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Today we express our love and thanks to the men and women who have stood to defend our freedoms in battles past, and to all of the soldiers today in the field, I thank you. America thanks you.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 264) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 264

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States have been vital in maintaining our freedoms and way of life;

Whereas the more than 700,000 brave Americans who have sacrificed their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States have ensured that the Nation, which is founded on the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy, shall endure;

Whereas Armistice Day was first proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 to commemorate the November 11, 1918, armistice between the Allies and the Central Powers that ended the fighting of World War I;

Whereas on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day (Public Law 83-380);

Whereas on October 8, 1954, in anticipation of the first nationwide observance of Veterans Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a presidential proclamation regarding that Veterans Day which states that "[o]n that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so

valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain";

Whereas on November 10, 2003, President George W. Bush issued a presidential proclamation regarding Veterans Day 2003 which states that "[t]oday, our veterans inspire new generations of Americans as we work to defeat terrorism and advance peace. In respect for and recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans";

Whereas in 2003 the Senate is in session on November 11 despite that date being a public holiday to honor veterans; and

Whereas it is proper that the Senate observe the day with appropriate tributes and commemorations even as it conducts the Nation's business: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) that the war dead of the Nation, and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, alive or dead, are to be honored for their contributions and sacrifices to preserve the Nation and the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy that all Americans hold dear;

(2) that Veterans Day 2003 shall be commemorated with appropriate tributes to all veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States for their contributions and sacrifices, and most especially to those who made the ultimate sacrifice; and

(3) that all Americans shall be encouraged to join the Senate in honoring and paying tribute to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, both on Veterans Day and throughout the year.

BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item No. 369, S. 286.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 286) to revise and extend the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1998.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 286

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003".]

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER ON BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

[Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

[(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

[(A) in subparagraph (A)—