

DOMENICI and I receive literally thousands of requests for water projects in all fifty States. We work hard to accommodate as many of them as possible each year.

I am pleased to report that total funding for the Corps of Engineers is nearly \$4.6 billion—a total that is \$375 million above an utterly insufficient request from the Administration. I wish we were able to do more, but, I feel we were able to keep many very important projects moving forward this year and have been able to begin some new ones.

Total funding for the Bureau of Reclamation is set at \$986 million, a total that is \$64 million above the President's request and \$15 million above the current year. As a Western Senator I had hoped this would be the year that we got the Bureau up to \$1 billion, but we came up just short. However, I am very pleased that we are pushing the Bureau's budget in the right direction.

The conferees were able to provide total funding of \$22 billion for the Department of Energy. The Senate was able to convince the House to restore most of the nearly \$300 million in cuts to DOE programs, but we are still nearly \$120 million below the President's request. We are, however, \$1.2 billion above the current year. The overall increase has allowed the conferees to provide solid funding for the Office of Science, renewable energy projects, and the very important environmental management clean-up projects nationwide.

As most of you know, Senator DOMENICI is a fierce defender of two nuclear weapons labs in his home State, two institutions that do world class research and have helped to keep our Nation safe and secure for over 50 years. The House cut nearly \$200 million from the President's budget request for Los Alamos and Sandia, a move that would have had very negative ramifications for our Nation's science-based stockpile stewardship program. I am pleased to report that we were able to restore most of these ill-advised cuts. The people of New Mexico are very lucky to have a Senator as skilled and determined as PETE DOMENICI working for them.

Frankly, given the battle we were in with the House this year over our bill, I am glad he was also fighting for me and the other 98 Members of the Senate.

I am very grateful to Chairman DOMENICI and his new clerk, Tammy Perrin, for being so dogged in their defense of the Senate position on so many issues. I have worked with his previous clerks, Alex Flint and Clay Sell, and have found them both to be outstanding. In Tammy, he has found another terrific clerk.

As always, thanks to Drew Willison, Roger Cockrell, and Nancy Olkewicz of my subcommittee staff. I appreciate everything they do for me and all of the Members of the Senate.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conference

report be adopted and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1875

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1875) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURES INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. 1415, S. 1671, AND S. 1746

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following bills be indefinitely postponed: Calendar No. 326, S. 1415; Calendar No. 327, S. 1671, Calendar No. 328, S. 1746.

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

DEATHS OF ITALIAN CITIZENS IN IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 268 introduced earlier today by Senator GRAHAM.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 268) to express the sense of the Senate regarding the deaths of 19 citizens of Italy in Iraq.

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

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 en bloc, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 268) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 268

Whereas the people of Italy are long-time and resolute allies of the United States;

Whereas the people of Italy sent 2,700 of their finest citizens in contribution to the international effort to stabilize Iraq; and

Whereas on Wednesday November 12, 2003, 19 Italians including 12 Carabinieri, 5 army

soldiers, and 2 civilians were brutally murdered through cowardly acts of terrorism while on duty in Nassiriya, Iraq; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns with the people of Italy on their National Day of Mourning for these 19 brave souls;

(2) acknowledges the sacrifices of the Italian people; and

(3) recognizes the significant contributions that Italy continues to make towards stability and democracy around the world.

21ST CENTURY NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 280, S. 189.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 189) to authorize appropriations for nanoscience, nanoengineering, and nanotechnology research, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 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. 189

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 "21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act".]

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

[The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The emerging fields of nanoscience and nanoengineering (collectively, "nanotechnology"), in which matter is manipulated at the atomic level (i.e., atom-by-atom or molecule-by-molecule) in order to build materials, machines, and devices with novel properties or functions, are leading to unprecedented scientific and technological opportunities that will benefit society by changing the way many things are designed and made.

(2) Long-term nanoscale research and development leading to potential breakthroughs in areas such as materials and manufacturing, electronics, medicine and healthcare, environment, energy, chemicals, biotechnology, agriculture, information technology, and national security could be as significant as the combined influences of microelectronics, biotechnology, and information technology on the 20th century. Nanotechnology could lead to things such as—

(A) new generations of electronics where the entire collection of the Library of Congress is stored on devices the size of a sugar cube;

(B) manufacturing that requires less material, pollutes less, and is embedded with sophisticated sensors that will internally detect signs of weakness and automatically respond by releasing chemicals that will prevent damage;