

The positive implications of this program have grown beyond the expectations of even the authors of the original legislation. By supporting these socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, the Federal Government has helped these entrepreneurs revitalize neighborhoods, create jobs, and encourages real, measurable economic growth. The program has shown to be a resounding success, however, a great deal of work still needs to be done. Moreover, the Federal Government has failed to meet the 23 percent government-wide goal for small business utilization in Federal procurement. Agencies have continually failed to meet the goals for socially and economically disadvantaged, women owned businesses, service disabled veteran owned, and HUBZone firms, all of which contribute to the overall 23 percent goal. Part of the problem faced by small businesses participating in these programs and by those attempting to enforce small business utilization goals is the perception that these goals are intended to be a maximum set-aside for small firms. They are not. They are minimum thresholds. The continuation of the SDB program throughout the government will help Federal agencies continue to utilize these small businesses and continue to foster business development and in much needed sectors of the economy.

I would like to make clear that this bill is not intended to interfere with any program, pilot program or authority that has a longer authorization, like the Small Business Innovation and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. If there are any doubts about our intentions, the bill is structured to keep all programs, pilots and initiatives operating that could have expired between September 30, 2003, and March 15, 2003, and to keep them operating as on September 30.

I commend our committee, and the leadership of our chair, Senator SNOWE, for deliberating and passing our comprehensive reauthorization bill in July and look forward to working with our colleagues in the House to pass a final bill in early 2004.●

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (S. 1895) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1895

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any program, authority, or provision, including any pilot program, authorized under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) or the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) as of September 30, 2003, that is scheduled to expire on or after September 30, 2003 and before March 15, 2004, shall remain authorized

through March 15, 2004, under the same terms and conditions in effect on September 30, 2003.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), section 303(g)(2) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(g)(2)) is amended by striking "1.38 percent" and inserting "1.46 percent".

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 379, S. Res. 256.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 256) observing the 50th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, affirming the deep cooperation and friendship between the people of the United States and the people of the Republic of Korea, and thanking the Republic of Korea for its contributions to the global war on terrorism and to the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan and 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, all with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 256) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 256

Whereas October 1, 2003, marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, signed at Washington October 1, 1953, and entered into force November 17, 1954 (hereinafter referred to as the "Mutual Defense Treaty");

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have formed a bond through the common struggle against communist aggression;

Whereas more than 34,000 Americans lost their lives fighting in the Korean War, and approximately 37,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces are still deployed on the Korean peninsula, enduring separation from their families and other hardships in the defense of freedom;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty has been instrumental in securing peace on the Korean peninsula and providing an environment in which the Republic of Korea has become an economically vibrant, free, democratic society;

Whereas the foundation of the Mutual Defense Treaty rests not only on a common adversary, but more importantly on a shared interest in, and commitment to, peace, democracy, and freedom on the Korean peninsula, in Asia, and throughout the world;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are working closely together to find a diplomatic solution to the threat posed by North Korea's pursuit of nuclear

weapons and the export by North Korea of ballistic missiles;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is making valuable contributions to the global war on terrorism, including the contribution of logistics support for international forces operating in Afghanistan;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has pledged \$260,000,000 and has already sent 700 military engineers and medical personnel to assist in the United States-led effort to stabilize and reconstruct Iraq; and

Whereas South Korea President Roh Moo-hyun pledged on October 18, 2003, to dispatch additional troops to work alongside United States and coalition forces in Iraq; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) observes the 50th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, signed at Washington October 1, 1953, and entered into force November 17, 1954;

(2) reaffirms the deep cooperation and friendship between the people of the United States and the people of the Republic of Korea; and

(3) thanks the Republic of Korea for its contributions to the global war on terrorism and to the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 321.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Further, I ask consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the Senate proceed en bloc to its consideration: PN1019-2, Robert Goldberg.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Bruce E. Burda, 0432

FOREIGN SERVICE

Robert Goldberg

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.