

Whereas the faculty in the Department of Agronomy also have made significant international contributions to world food production and natural resources sustainability, including participation and leadership in long-term projects in India, the Philippines, Nigeria, Morocco, and Botswana;

Whereas the faculty in the Department of Agronomy have distinguished themselves by receiving numerous university and national awards in teaching, research, and extension and provided service and leadership for national and international professional societies;

Whereas the faculty in the Department of Agronomy have conducted research for sustainable, efficient crop and range production systems that conserve natural resources and protect environmental quality;

Whereas, today, a majority of the acres of wheat and a significant number of acres of alfalfa, soybean, and canola in Kansas are planted with varieties developed in the Department of Agronomy;

Whereas the Department of Agronomy extension specialists have provided information to producers and industry regarding soil fertility, conservation of soil and water resources, tillage and production systems, evaluation of crop varieties and hybrids, and protection of the environment, thus, keeping Kansas agriculture efficient and competitive;

Whereas the Department of Agronomy faculty have prepared students in agronomy to effectively serve agriculture and society by feeding the world and protecting soil and water resources;

Whereas the alumni of the Department of Agronomy have distinguished themselves in the public and private sectors as crop, soil, range, and weed science professionals and have become farmers, extension agents, educators, administrators, consultants, representatives, scientists, missionaries, military officers, contractors, and a host of other professionals; and

Whereas many alumni of the Department of Agronomy have become leaders in their communities, academia, industry, and government, contributing significantly to world agriculture by making hybrid corn a reality, developing seeds for the Green Revolution, developing sorghum into an important crop, breeding "Miracle Rice" for Asia, and leading national programs in wheat, barley, oat, and alfalfa: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates and commends the Department of Agronomy in the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University for 100 years of excellent service to Kansas agriculture, the citizens of Kansas, the United States, and the world.

#### LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Con. Res. 116.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 116) supporting "Lights On Afterschool," a national celebration of after school programs.

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

#### LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Today, I ask my colleagues to recognize the 7th Annual Lights on Afterschool events taking place across the country on October 12, 2006. "Lights on Afterschool is a national celebration in which more than 1 million Americans will gather in their communities to recognize the important role that afterschool programs provide for the children in this country.

Afterschool providers throughout California and across the country have demonstrated that afterschool programs keep children safe, improve learning, and reduce crime and drug use. According to the FBI, youth are most at risk for being victims of violent crimes and committing violent acts between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.—after school is out and before parents arrive home. Afterschool programs keep children safe, reduce crime and drug use, and improve academic performance.

As we take this occasion to recognize the afterschool program providers, we also must honor the communities that also contribute to the enrichment of these afterschool activities that provide safe and supervised afterschool educational, enrichment, and recreational programs. The partnerships you have forged with the afterschool program providers are instrumental in their success. There is no responsibility greater than ensuring that our children can learn and grow in a safe environment.

Afterschool programs are critical to the success of American families. These programs make it easier for parents to go to work because they know that their children are in a safe and nourishing environment. According to the Afterschool Alliance, 14.3 million children go home to an empty house every day. We must work to ensure these children have access to these programs that are vital to developing cultural and social skills, as well as the academic enrichment that the programs provide.

Afterschool is a wise investment in our children's future. That is why I will continue to work to make after school a national priority—so that we can bring Federal resources to support great local programs to keep the lights on and the doors open.

I send my sincere thanks to everyone working in programs and schools involved with Lights on Afterschool and for all of the work you have done and continue to do in creating partnerships that promote and enhance afterschool programs.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 116) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 116

Whereas high quality after school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high quality after school programs support working families by ensuring that the children in such families are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high quality after school programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's youth, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high quality after school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;

Whereas "Lights On Afterschool!," a national celebration of after school programs held on October 12, 2006, promotes the critical importance of high quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and 14,300,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many after school programs across the United States are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!" a national celebration of after school programs.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 539, S. 2562.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2562) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

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

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am extremely pleased with Senate passage of legislation that will authorize a cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' compensation.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, S. 2562, directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of December 1, 2006, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children, and certain related benefits.

The COLA will be the same as the increase provided to Social Security recipients, which is projected to be approximately 2.9 percent.

It is vital that veterans' disability compensation rates keep pace with the increasing cost of living. Without an increase to offset the effects of inflation, veterans and their families would lose the value of this important benefit.

Passage of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006 is the least that Congress can do to help disabled veterans provide adequately for their families. Many times, VA disability compensation is a major, and in some cases the sole, source of income for a veteran and his or her family. For those who gave so much to this nation, we owe them this sign of gratitude.

In closing, I thank all of my colleagues for their support for our Nation's veterans. I anticipate swift passage of this important legislation by the House of Representatives.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5034) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction to title 38, United States Code)

On page 4, after line 8, add the following:

**SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (as added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

The bill (S. 2562), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2562

*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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006".

**SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2006, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2006, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2007.

**SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (as added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

**DETAINEE INTERROGATION AGREEMENT**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments we will be closing. I will have a brief closing statement about what the plans will be over the next several days.

While we have a moment, I will refer to what happened about an hour or an hour and a half ago on a very important piece of legislation we have been working on for about 2 months, almost 3 months now. It is legislation which results from what we all know now as the Hamdan decision that the Supreme Court presented to us specifically several months ago. As a result of that decision, it became incumbent to pass legislation in this Senate to clarify the results of that decision but, most importantly, to address the issues surrounding the military tribunals, the terrorist tribunals, the military commissions. Those are, in essence, the court system, the commissions, the way we deal with enemy combatants or terrorists.

The issue before the Senate is legislation that we must pass this coming week just as soon as possible for a number of reasons, but primarily we

have detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who cannot be tried. Among these terrorists are people such as the lead Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind, or alleged mastermind, behind the events of September 11.

In addition, what we all now understand is the Hamdan decision made it again incumbent upon the Senate to act in order to be able to continue a very important program of interrogation so we can get information so our Government will be equipped with the tools we need to obtain information from terrorists that can be lifesaving, that can prevent another attack, a terrorist attack.

What has been challenging over the last several months is coming to an agreement which we reached today among colleagues who had devoted a lot of time in this Senate on this issue, an issue which is tough from a legal standpoint, but an agreement within this Senate, working hand in hand with the administration. I was pleased to join my colleagues, along with the National Security Adviser, Steve Hadley, along with a Member from the House of Representatives, as well as MITCH MCCONNELL, our whip, as well as JOHN WARNER, chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, and Senator GRAHAM, to announce an agreement that meets the key test of our conference.

The first priority, as I have spoken again and again over the last several days, was the importance of meeting these goals. And they were met.

No. 1, protect America by ensuring our highly valuable CIA program will be preserved, a program of interrogation which has delivered information that has allowed the United States to stop terrorist activity. That will be preserved.

The second goal, a criterion that I have set out and the President has set out as well, is whatever we develop in this Senate must guarantee that classified sources and methods, classified information—all sources and methods will not be disclosed to the terrorist detainees. It seems obvious to the American people, obvious to me, that we do not want to be giving classified information to a terrorist or his attorney, who will turn around and share that with the larger terrorist world that is out there.

A third criteria or a third result of the fact that this legislation has been addressed in the way it has is an agreement that has the impact of ensuring that the military will be able to begin to try the terrorists, the enemy combatants, the detainees in our custody today.

So it protects a program which we know is important. No. 1. No. 2, it prevents classified information from being given to terrorists. No. 3, it ensures that the military can begin to try these terrorists once this legislation is signed by the President.

I congratulate my colleagues. We have a long way to go, though, because