

S. 1800

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require emergency contraception to be available at all military health care treatment facilities.

S. 1986

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1986, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Treasury to prescribe the weights and the compositions of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Collins, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of medicine and genetics.

S. 2618

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2618, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss Facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophies.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2681, a bill to require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

S. 2687

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary protections under parts C and D of the Medicare program.

S. 2720

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2720, a bill to withhold Federal financial assistance from each country that denies or unreasonably delays the acceptance of nationals of such country who have been ordered removed from the United States and to prohibit the issuance of visas to nationals of such country.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to reauthorize and improve the financing and entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2977

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2977, a bill to create a Federal cause of action to determine whether defamation exists under United States law in cases in which defamation actions have been brought in foreign courts against United States persons on the basis of publications or speech in the United States.

S. 3068

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3068, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

S. 3073

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3073, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance public health activities related to stillbirth and sudden unexpected infant death.

S. 3311

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3311, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve mental and behavioral health services on college campuses.

S. 3312

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3312, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that victims of public health emergencies have meaningful and immediate access to medically necessary health care services.

S. CON. RES. 93

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 93, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month".

S. RES. 598

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 598, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to lead renewed international efforts to assist developing nations in conserving natural resources and preventing the impending extinction of a large portion of the world's plant and animal species.

S. RES. 618

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 618, a resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and memorializing the citizens of the United States, Kenya, and Tanzania whose lives were claimed as a result of the al Qaeda led terrorist attacks.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 624—DESIGNATING AUGUST 2008 AS "NATIONAL TRUANCY PREVENTION MONTH"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 624

Whereas public schools in the United States are facing a dropout crisis, with approximately 1,200,000 students not graduating from high school on time and only 70 percent of students earning high school diplomas;

Whereas truancy has been shown to be the first and best indicator that a child will drop out of school, use marijuana for the first time, and commit juvenile crimes by the age of 15;

Whereas the incidence of truancy in a recent national survey found that 11 percent of eighth grade students, 16 percent of tenth grade students, and 35 percent of twelfth grade students reported skipping 1 or more days of school during the previous 30 days;

Whereas chronic truants often miss more days of school than they attend;

Whereas absentee rates relate directly to graduation rates and are highest in public schools in urban areas;

Whereas truant eighth graders are more likely to say they do not believe they will graduate from high school or attend college than their peers who attend regularly;

Whereas truancy has been found to be a risk factor for substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and school dropout;

Whereas the average annual income for a high school dropout in 2005 was \$17,299, compared to \$26,933 for a high school graduate;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that when truancy is addressed, there is a reduction in the rates of daytime crime, juvenile crime, drug use, and delinquency;

Whereas effective truancy reduction programs can take many forms and can be implemented in many different settings, including in schools, courts, and through community programs;

Whereas truancy prevention programs focused on middle grade students are key to preventing future dropouts; and

Whereas truancy reduction programs are highly cost effective, reduce juvenile and adult crime, and save taxpayer money: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 2008 as “National Truancy Prevention Month”;

(2) recognizes the significant harm of chronic truancy to the youth of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the work being done by truancy prevention programs throughout the United States to help at-risk youth; and

(4) encourages law enforcement, school officials, the judiciary, community leaders, and the business community to work together to address truancy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—DESIGNATING AUGUST 16, 2006, AS NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 625

Whereas the airborne forces of the Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as units of adventuresome, hardy, and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the effective ground combat power of the United States by Air Force air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and, indeed, to the far corners of the world;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, an event that validated the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind the battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the United States experiment of airborne infantry attack began on June 25, 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, and was launched when 48 volunteers began training in July 1940;

Whereas the success of the Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately preceding the entry of the United States into World War II led to the formation of a formidable force of airborne units that have served with distinction and have had repeated success in armed hostilities;

Whereas among those airborne units are the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions, the venerable 82nd Airborne Division, the versatile 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the airborne regiments and battalions (some as components of those divisions, some as separate units) that achieved distinction as the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 187th Infantry (Airborne) Regiment, the 503rd, 507th, 508th, 517th, 541st, and 542nd Parachute Infantry Regiments, the 88th Glider Infantry Regiment, the 509th, 551st, and 555th Parachute Infantry Battalions, the 325th and 327th Glider Infantry, and the 550th Airborne Infantry Battalion;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II prompted the evolution of those forces into a diversified force of parachute and air assault units that, over

the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peace-keeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force that has evolved from those World War II beginnings is an agile, powerful force that, in large part, is composed of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 75th Ranger Regiment;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force also includes other elite forces composed entirely of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control teams, all or most of which comprise the forces of the United States Special Operations Command;

Whereas in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism by carrying out combat operations in Afghanistan, training operations in the Philippines, and other operations elsewhere;

Whereas in the aftermath of the President's announcement of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry Division, together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism, carrying out combat operations, conducting civil affairs missions, and assisting in establishing democracy in Iraq;

Whereas the airborne forces are and will continue to be at the ready and the forefront until the Global War on Terrorism is concluded;

Whereas of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, all have achieved distinction by earning the right to wear the airborne's “Silver Wings of Courage”, thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, 69 have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished-Service Cross, Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of such traits as heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are members of a proud and honorable fraternity of the profession of arms that is made exclusive by those distinctions which, together with their special skills and achievements, distinguish them as intrepid combat parachutists, special operation forces, and (in former days) glider troops;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the American people; and

Whereas, since the airborne community celebrates August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 would be an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 16, 2008, as “National Airborne Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe “National Airborne Day” with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 626—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES ERRONEOUSLY DECIDED KENNEDY V. LOUISIANA, NO. 07-343 (2008), AND THAT THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ALLOWS THE IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE RAPE OF A CHILD

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BURR, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 626

Whereas 1 out of 3 sexual assault victims is under 12 years of age;

Whereas raping a child is a particularly depraved, perverted, and heinous act;

Whereas child rape is among the most morally reprehensible crimes;

Whereas child rape is a gross defilement of innocence that should be severely punished;

Whereas a raped child suffers immeasurable physical, psychological, and emotional harm from which the child may never recover;

Whereas the Federal Government and State governments have a right and a duty to combat, prevent, and punish child rape;

Whereas the popularly elected representatives of Louisiana modified the rape laws of the State in 1995, making the aggravated rape of a child 11 years of age or younger punishable by death, life imprisonment without parole, probation, or suspension of sentence, as determined by a jury;

Whereas on March 2, 1998, Patrick Kennedy, a resident of Louisiana, brutally raped his 8-year-old stepdaughter;

Whereas the injuries inflicted on the child victim by her stepfather were described by an expert in pediatric forensic medicine as “the most severe he had seen from a sexual assault”;

Whereas the cataclysmic injuries to her 8-year-old body required emergency surgery;

Whereas a jury of 12 Louisiana citizens convicted Patrick Kennedy of this depraved crime, and unanimously sentenced him to death;

Whereas the Supreme Court of Louisiana upheld this sentence, holding that the death penalty was not an excessive punishment for Kennedy's crime;

Whereas the Supreme Court of Louisiana relied on precedent interpreting the eighth amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas on June 25, 2008, the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, No. 07-343 (2008), that executing Patrick Kennedy for the rape of his stepdaughter would be “cruel and unusual punishment”;

Whereas the Supreme Court, in the 5-4 decision, overturned the judgment of Louisiana's elected officials, the citizens who sat on the jury, and the Louisiana Supreme Court;

Whereas this decision marked the first time that the Supreme Court held that the death penalty for child rape was unconstitutional;

Whereas, as Justice Alito observed in his dissent, the opinion of the majority was so broad that it precludes the Federal Government and State governments from authorizing the death penalty for child rape “no matter how young the child, no matter how many times the child is raped, no matter