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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LEROY ARTHUR PETRY, A NATIVE OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, AND THE SECOND LIVING RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR**

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama on July 12, 2011;

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces for valor in combat;

Whereas the official citation awarding the Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class Petry states that then-Staff Sergeant Petry "distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008";

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry joins an elite group of Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has continued a long tradition of military service to the United States by New Mexicans, dating back to the defense of the Western United States during the Civil War, and followed by participation in every major war fought by the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry is the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry fought with bravery and, despite wounds to both of his legs, had the courage and quick thinking needed to save the lives of his fellow soldiers by throwing back an enemy grenade and losing his right hand when the grenade detonated shortly after he released it;

Whereas the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry represent the highest values of the Army, the Rangers, and the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has consistently demonstrated humility and dedication to his fellow soldiers;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry, who overcame a troubled youth and found the strength to turn his life around and dedicate himself to serving the United States, is an example to all people who are struggling in the United States; and

Whereas the brave actions of Sergeant First Class Petry, as well as his modesty and selfless service, stand as the embodiment of the best attributes of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) honors the service and sacrifice of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army and his family; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to recognize the valor, heroism, and dedication to the United States exhibited by Sergeant First Class Petry.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a res-

olution with Senator JEFF BINGAMAN honoring the bravery and sacrifice of Santa Fe, New Mexico native Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, an Army Ranger who in 2008 risked his life to save his fellow soldiers on the battlefields of Afghanistan and who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Obama in July.

I was humbled to be at the White House along with Sergeant First Class Petry's family, friends, and fellow soldiers as President Obama honored him with the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was truly a special day for everyone involved as we honored only the second living, active-duty service member to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

On July 12, I detailed the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry. Under enemy fire, with bullet wounds in both of his legs, Sergeant First Class Petry still had the courage and valor to render aid to his fellow Rangers and to throw a grenade that landed near his fellow soldiers back towards the enemy.

When the grenade exploded, it took with it Sergeant First Class Petry's hand, but not his spirit. Not even the loss of a hand would stop him from fighting the enemy and supporting his unit. He would tie a tourniquet to his arm and continue the fight.

As I have said before, Sergeant First Class Petry's story is one of courage and sacrifice and immense love of country. It is a story that began years ago in Santa Fe with a young man who struggled in high school but refused to give up, to drop out and instead buckled down, dug deep, and found the hero within. A hero to the men he saved that fateful day in Afghanistan, and a hero to all Americans who owe their freedoms to our brave men and women in uniform.

Today, let us honor him further with this resolution and send the message that Congress honors his service and sacrifice.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 1, 2011.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 1, 2011, at 3:30 p.m.

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

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elle Charles

and Ashley Crawford, of my staff, be granted the privilege of the floor for the rest of today's proceedings.

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: Robin Dutta.

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

**FASTER FOIA ACT OF 2011**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1466.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1466) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I joined Senator CORNYN in reintroducing the Faster FOIA Act of 2011, a bipartisan bill to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA. Last week, the House Republican leadership stripped these FOIA provisions from legislation that unanimously passed the Senate in May as part of a procedural maneuver to address unrelated issues surrounding the debt limit. I urge the Senate to promptly reaffirm its bipartisan commitment to open government and to once again pass the Leahy-Cornyn Faster FOIA Act of 2011 so that this good government bill can be enacted into law.

The Faster FOIA Act enjoys broad bipartisan support from across the political spectrum. The Senate unanimously passed this bill in May, after the Judiciary Committee favorably reported the bill by voice vote. Recently, more than 35 transparency organizations urged the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to act on this legislation. On July 26, the Washington Post editorialized that the House should promptly enact this bipartisan bill to improve the FOIA process.

Senator CORNYN and I first introduced the Faster FOIA Act in 2005 to address the growing problem of excessive FOIA delays within our Federal agencies. During the intervening years, the problem of excessive FOIA delays has not gone away. We reintroduced this bill in 2010, and the Senate unanimously passed it last year. The current bill is the most recent product of our bipartisan work to help reinvigorate FOIA.

The Faster FOIA Act would establish a bipartisan Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays to examine the root causes of excessive FOIA delays. The Commission would recommend to Congress and the President steps that should be taken to reduce these delays so that the administration of the FOIA is more equitable and efficient.