

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Peter Wisner, a detailee from the Treasury Department, be given the privilege of the floor during the consideration of H.R. 2112.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of the staff of the Senator from Oregon, Elizabeth Heintzman, during the pendency of the pending business.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 410; that there be 4 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on Calendar No. 410, and that the nomination be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

INCREASING RATES OF VETERANS COMPENSATION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 125.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The bill (S. 894) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2011, in 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, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 894) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 894

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 2011".

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

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2011, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2011, 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 114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 115(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, 2011, 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.

(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), 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 2012.

NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 299.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 299) designating October 2011 as "National Work and Family Month."

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed

to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 299) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 299

Whereas, according to a report by WorldatWork, a nonprofit professional association with expertise in attracting, motivating, and retaining employees, the quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of the workplace of the workers are key predictors of the job productivity, job satisfaction, and commitment to the employer of those workers, as well as of the ability of the employer to retain those workers;

Whereas "work-life balance" refers to specific organizational practices, policies, and programs that are guided by a philosophy of active support for the efforts of employees to achieve success within and outside the workplace, such as caring for dependents, health and wellness, paid and unpaid time off, financial support, community involvement, and workplace culture;

Whereas numerous studies show that employers that offer effective work-life balance programs are better able to recruit more talented employees, maintain a happier, healthier, and less stressed workforce, and retain experienced employees, which produces a more productive and stable workforce with less voluntary turnover;

Whereas job flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in the lives of their children, and research demonstrates that parental involvement is associated with higher achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates in children;

Whereas military families have special work-family needs that often require robust policies and programs that provide flexibility to employees in unique circumstances;

Whereas studies report that family rituals, such as sitting down to dinner together and sharing activities on weekends and holidays, positively influence the health and development of children and that children who eat dinner with their families every day consume nearly a full serving more of fruits and vegetables per day than those who never eat dinner with their families or do so only occasionally; and

Whereas the month of October is an appropriate month to designate as National Work and Family Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2011 as "National Work and Family Month";

(2) recognizes the importance of work schedules that allow employees to spend time with their families to job productivity and healthy families;

(3) urges public officials, employers, employees, and the general public to work together to achieve more balance between work and family; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Work and Family Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 300.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week, 2011.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 300

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration for 11 years who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established by the National Family Partnership to preserve the memory of Special Agent Camarena and further the cause for which he gave his life;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been nationally recognized since 1988 and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the United States, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, established in 1973, aggressively targets organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances and has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and attorneys general of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, PRIDE Youth Programs, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and hundreds of other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts, education, parental involvement, and community-wide support;

Whereas drug abuse is one of the major challenges that the United States faces in securing a safe and healthy future for families in the United States;

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas, between 1998 and 2008, the percentages of admissions to substance abuse treatment programs as a result of the abuse of marijuana and methamphetamines rose significantly;

Whereas drug dealers specifically target children by marketing illicit drugs that mimic the appearance and names of well-known brand-name candies and foods;

Whereas emerging drug threats and growing epidemics demand attention, with particular focus on the abuse of prescription medications, the second most abused drug by young people in the United States;

Whereas since the majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get the prescription drugs from family, friends, and home medicine cabinets, the Drug Enforcement Administration will host a National Take Back Day on October 29, 2011, for the public to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse; and

Whereas parents, young people, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week, 2011;

(2) encourages children and teens to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to promote the creation of drug-free communities; and

(B) to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., tomorrow, Thursday, October 20. I would note there is a unique reason we are coming in late tomorrow. I would like to come in very early, but Senator HARKIN and Senator ENZI are working very hard in the Labor Committee, Labor and Education Committee, to come up with a rewrite of Leave No Child Behind. They have worked very hard.

There are 140 amendments pending. More than 70 of them have been offered by one Senator and that Senator has objected to the committee meeting so it is a little hard when you file all those amendments to have them all considered when they object to the committee meeting. Under the rules of the Senate, you have a right to object if the meeting takes more than 2 hours after the Senate comes into session. Anyway, that is where we are. I think it is absolutely hard to comprehend how anyone could rationally do that, but that is what we have.

I would add, because of that, the committee is meeting very early so they can continue 2 hours after we come in. Anyway, we are coming in at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

I ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R.

2112, the Agriculture, CJS, and Transportation appropriations bill, until 12 p.m., and that at 12 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 78, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, and all other provisions of the previous order remain in effect; further, that when the Senate resumes legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2112, and the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Vitter amendment No. 769, as modified, and the Webb amendment, No. 750; and that at 2 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Merkley amendment No. 879, as modified; the Brown of Ohio amendment No. 874, as modified; the Moran amendment No. 815; and the Grassley amendment No. 860; with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be three rollcall votes about noon tomorrow, four rollcall votes at approximately 2 p.m. We expect additional rollcall votes tomorrow in relation to the Appropriations bill. We are going to do our utmost to complete that bill tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:29 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 20, 2011, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 19, 2011:

THE JUDICIARY

MARK RAYMOND HORNAK, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ROBERT DAVID MARIANI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ROBERT N. SCOLA, JR., OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.