

S. 1915. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3286. An act to encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4757. An act to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5160. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to include as part of the buildings and grounds of the National Gallery of Art any buildings and other areas within the boundaries of any real estate or other property interests acquired by the National Gallery of Art.

H.R. 5166. An act amend title 38, United States Code, to permit veterans to grant access to their records in the databases of the Veterans Benefits Administration to certain designated congressional employees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5422. An act to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5458. An act to provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5600. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy to veterans.

H.R. 5843. An act to establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity.

H.R. 5877. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6135. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 719 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Fred D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 6323. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center".

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3471) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

H. Con. Res. 165. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and

opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bills, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 546. An act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Clerk of the House be directed to return to the Senate the resolution (H. Con. Res. 122) supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally, together with all accompanying papers, in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof, to make a technical correction in the engrossment of the aforesaid resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COONS, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3485. A bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3486. A bill to amend chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, to establish in statute the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3487. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare entitlement to immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant recipients; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3488. A bill to protect freedom of speech in America's electoral process and ensure transparency in campaign finance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 624. A resolution supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of World Prematurity Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 625. A resolution supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of World Prematurity Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 626. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Con. Res. 57. A concurrent resolution honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2469

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2469, a bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

S. 2612

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2612, a bill to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2782, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3021

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.

S. 3043

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3043, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

S. 3373

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3373, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that the reciprocal deposits of an insured depository institution are not considered to be funds obtained by or through a deposit broker, and for other purposes.

S. 3386

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3386, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May 1 as "Silver Star Service Banner Day".

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3447, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 3475

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3475, a bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

S. CON. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 56, a concurrent resolution clarifying any potential misunderstanding as to whether actions taken by President-elect Donald Trump constitute a violation of the Emoluments Clause, and calling on President-elect Trump to divest his interest in, and sever his relationship to, the Trump Organization.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 616, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

S. RES. 621

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 621, a resolution designating November 2016 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3488. A bill to protect freedom of speech in America's electoral process and ensure transparency in campaign finance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, today I am introducing the SuperPAC Elimination Act. Another election cycle has come and gone without addressing a glaring issue that remains significant: free speech and transparency in campaign finance. Our current campaign finance system is absurd. Right now, a large percentage—sometimes a majority—of campaign expenditures are made by independent third-party SuperPACs that are prohibited from communicating with candidates. That makes no sense. Candidates should define their own messages, and citizens should be free to support whatever candidates they choose to support. Restrictions to political contributions are always presented under the guise of preventing corruption and holding politicians accountable, when in fact they accomplish exactly the opposite: pro-

tecting incumbent politicians. My legislation would put Americans on a level playing field with the media and politicians when it comes to influencing elections and exercising our First Amendment rights. Specifically, it would remove the caps on direct contributions to candidates from individuals and requires donations of more than \$200 to be disclosed within 24 hours. Establishing unlimited contributions paired with immediate disclosure is the best way to promote transparency, eliminate the viability of SuperPACs going forward, and ensure that free speech is protected in the electoral process. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to shed light on the political arena and empower individual Americans by passing this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 624—SUPPORTING THE GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND IDEALS OF WORLD PREMATURETY MONTH

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

S. RES. 624

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications from preterm birth are the world's leading killer of children younger than 5 years of age;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem, exacting a harsh toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas, in 2015, complications from preterm birth accounted for 1,000,000 deaths of children younger than 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas there are stark inequalities with respect to the survival rates of preterm babies born around the world;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide could be prevented through proven low-cost interventions;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to—

- (1) high quality prenatal and postnatal care;
- (2) quality childbirth services;
- (3) emergency obstetric care; and
- (4) comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, premature birth is the leading contributor to infant death in the United States and poses the risk of lifelong health problems for babies who survive;

Whereas, while the preterm birth rate in the United States decreased from a peak of 12.8 percent in 2006 to 9.6 percent in 2015, the rate remains too high;

Whereas many communities in the United States experience significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

Whereas, in 2005, the Institute of Medicine estimated that the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26,200,000,000; and