

him to the bill S. 593, to restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaskan communities, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; as follows:

Strike section 3 and insert the following:

SEC. 3. COVID-19 MITIGATION GUIDANCE FOR CRUISE SHIPS; RESUMPTION OF CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS.

(a) COVID-19 MITIGATION GUIDANCE FOR CRUISE SHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the earlier of 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act or June 1, 2021, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this section as the “Director”) and in consultation with the interagency working group established under paragraph (3), shall issue recommendations for how to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 introduction, transmission, and spread among passengers and crew onboard cruise ships and ashore to communities. The Secretary may later update or modify such recommendations as necessary to mitigate such risks.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The recommendations issued under paragraph (1) shall be applicable to all cruise ships subject to the order entitled “No Sail Order and Suspension of Further Embarkation”, issued by the Director on March 24, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 16628), or any modification to, or extension of, such order.

(3) WORKING GROUP.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, an interagency working group, for purposes of developing, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the recommendations described in paragraph (1), in order to facilitate the resumption of passenger cruise ship operations in the United States.

(B) MEMBERS.—The interagency working group shall consist of—

(i) the Secretary (or designee) serving as Chair;

(ii) the Secretaries (or designees) of Transportation, of Homeland Security, and of Commerce; and

(iii) industry stakeholders appointed by the Secretary.

(C) SCOPE OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing the recommendations described in paragraph (1), the interagency working group shall consider public health safety needs; risk mitigation strategies and health protocols for passengers and crew that are consistent with, and not substantially more burdensome than, the guidance applied by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to other business sectors and travel-related industries; and overall economic impacts, costs, and benefits of the recommendations.

(b) RESUMPTION OF CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS.—On the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revoke the order entitled “Framework for Conditional Sailing and Initial Phase COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Protection of Crew”, issued by the Director on November 4, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 70153), under the authority of sections 361

and 365 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264; 268), and any other order or regulation that prohibits the operation of all cruise ships in United States waters, requires such ships to obtain approval from the Director prior to operating, or otherwise acts as a de facto prohibition for cruise ship operations in the United States.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the Secretary to make and enforce such regulations that, in the judgment of the Secretary, are necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases on any individual cruise ship presenting a public health threat by reason of the existence of any communicable disease.

SA 1490. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 593, to restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaskan communities, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; as follows:

Strike section 3.

SA 1491. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 593, to restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaskan communities, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; as follows:

Strike section 2 and all that follows and insert the following:

SEC. 2. VOYAGES DEEMED FOREIGN.

Any voyage carrying 800 or more passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska shall be deemed a foreign voyage for purposes of the law of the United States for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on October 1, 2021.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-591, as amended by Public Law 102-221, appoints the following member of the United States Senate for appointment as a Senate Trustee to the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation: The Honorable JOE MANCHIN III of West Virginia.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 108-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon (Chairman); The Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California; the Honorable ANGUS S. KING JR of Maine; and The Honorable JON OSSOFF of Georgia.

The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 116-156, on behalf of the

Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a Member of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Rev. Alfred C. Sharpton of New York.

“SIX TRIPLE EIGHT” CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 321 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 321) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 321) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 321

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 “‘Six Triple Eight’ Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established the Women's Army Corps (referred to in this section as the “WAC”) as a component in the Army. The WAC was converted from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (referred to in this section as the “WAAC”), which had been created in 1942 without official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

(2) Dubbed “10 percenters”, the recruitment of African-American women to the WAAC was limited to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to match the proportion of African-Americans in the national population. Despite an Executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense industries, the Armed Forces remained segregated. Enlisted women served in segregated units, participated in segregated training, lived in separate quarters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used segregated recreational facilities. Officers received their officer candidate training in integrated units but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and technical training

schools were integrated in 1943. During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-American women served in the WAAC and the WAC.

(3) After several units of White women were sent to serve in the European Theater of Operations (referred to in this section as the “ETO”) during World War II, African-American organizations advocated for the War Department to extend the opportunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC units.

(4) In November 1944, the War Department approved sending African-American women to serve in Europe. A battalion of all African-American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this section as the “6888th”), which was nicknamed the “Six Triple Eight”.

(5) Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, which resulted in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces drove across Europe, the ever-changing locations of servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to those servicemembers. Because 7,000,000 civilians and military personnel from the United States served in the ETO, many of those individuals had identical names. For example, 7,500 such individuals were named Robert Smith. One general predicted that the backlog in Birmingham, England, would take 6 months to process and the lack of reliable mail service was hurting morale.

(6) In February 1945, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

(7) The 6888th created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organize “undeliverable” mail, determine the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of “No mail, low morale”, the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months.

(8) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France, in May 1945 and worked through a separate backlog of undelivered mail dating back as far as 3 years.

(9) At the completion of their mission, the unit returned to the United States. The 6888th was discontinued on March 9, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

(10) The accomplishments of the 6888th in Europe encouraged the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater of Operations to adopt the following premise in their study of the WAC issued in December 1945: “[T]he national security program is the joint responsibility of all Americans irrespective of color or sex” and “the continued use of colored, along with white, female military personnel is required in such strength as is proportionately appropriate to the relative population distribution between colored and white races”.

(11) With the exception of smaller units of African-American nurses who served in Africa, Australia, and England, the 6888th was the only African-American Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II.

(12) The members of the “Six Triple Eight” received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for their service.

(13) In 2019, the Army awarded the 6888th the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as the “Six Triple Eight”) in recognition of—

(1) the pioneering military service of those women;

(2) the devotion to duty of those women; and

(3) the contributions made by those women to increase the morale of all United States personnel stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere, particularly at—

(A) appropriate locations associated with the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion;

(B) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;

(C) the United States Army Women's Museum;

(D) the National World War II Museum and Memorial;

(E) the National Museum of the United States Army; and

(F) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary