

S. 2854 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2854) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the city of Fargo, North Dakota, for the conveyance of certain land of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Fargo National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2854) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2854

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term “City” means the city of Fargo, North Dakota.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) PARCEL.—The term “parcel” means the approximately 2.73 acres of land of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Fargo National Cemetery in Harwood, North Dakota, located in the southeast corner of the proposed expansion of the cemetery as depicted on the map provided by the Department entitled “Fargo National Cemetery” “Figure B” and dated April 21, 2023.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LAND AT FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—After the acquisition by the Department of Veterans Affairs of 29.06 acres adjacent to the original 4.82-acre area of Fargo National Cemetery, North Dakota, and only if such acquisition is completed, upon a written request from the City for the conveyance of the parcel, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the City under which the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel for the purpose of improving the experience of visitors and volunteers at Fargo National Cemetery.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the agreement described in subsection (a), for the conveyance of the parcel, the City shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the market value of the parcel, as determined by the appraisal conducted under paragraph (2).

(2) APPRAISAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an appraisal of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(c) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional conditions in connection with the conveyance of the parcel as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) PROCEEDS.—Proceeds from the conveyance of the parcel shall be deposited into the National Cemetery Administration Facilities Operation Fund.

SEC. 3. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) NO REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASE OR SALE OF OTHER PARCELS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require or encourage the Secretary to purchase or sell any parcel not described in section 1(3).

(b) NO REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require or encourage the Secretary to enter into any special agreement with an entity not described in section 1(1).

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 420, S. Res. 421, and S. Res. 422.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 254, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jennifer L. Hall to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Delaware. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 255, confirmation of the nomination of Jennifer L. Hall to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Delaware. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 256, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julia Kathleen Munley to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 257, confirmation of the nomination of Julia Kathleen Munley to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 258, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karla Ann

Gilbride to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 259, confirmation of the nomination of Karla Ann Gilbride to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 260, Passage of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 261, adoption of S. Res. 417, a resolution standing with Israel against terrorism. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.●

TRIBUTE TO BETTY K. KOED, SENATE HISTORIAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Senate Historian Betty Koed who is retiring this week after 25 years of service to the U.S. Senate. Betty is only the third person—and the first woman—to hold the position of Senate Historian, and our entire institution has benefited from her knowledge and expertise.

Betty has seen it all. She not only knows what is behind every door in this building, she also knows the stories behind so many important decisions that have been made in this Chamber over the years. She has been an invaluable resource who has dedicated her career to safeguarding the history that surrounds us and ensuring that it endures for generations to come. She has spent the past 25 years preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of the Senate and its Members, turning the records on our institution into stories for all Americans to experience both here at the Capitol and online.

Betty also provided critical support last Congress when I joined with former Senator Roy Blunt to pass a bipartisan resolution to dedicate the first two rooms in the Senate wing of the Capitol to women in recognition of former Senators Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and Barbara Mikulski of Maryland.

To commemorate her decades of esteemed service, this week, my colleagues and I joined together to unanimously pass a resolution led by Leader SCHUMER and Leader MCCONNELL to designate Betty as the first ever Historian Emerita of the U.S. Senate. I thank her for her dedication and service to this institution and to our democracy, and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DAVID
SMIGLEWSKI

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of Granite Falls, MN, mayor David “Smig” Smiglewski. A lifelong resident of Granite Falls, Dave loved his neighbors and gave so much to his city that he became known as “Mr. Granite Falls.” During his entire 44-year career in public service, which began with an appointment to the city council at age 26, Dave always made time for his neighbors and would stay late after city council meetings to share his vast knowledge of the region’s history and tell stories about Granite Falls.

I had the pleasure of visiting Mayor Smiglewski and other local leaders in Granite Falls earlier this year. We had productive discussions about our shared vision for bringing broadband to rural Minnesota, investing in Granite Falls’ public schools, and strengthening the city’s economy. What I remember most fondly from my visit, however, happened after our meeting, when Dave opened up the historic Andrew J. Volstead House and gave me a tour.

Dave always looked out for the people of Granite Falls, but he loved his family most of all. He and Cindy, his wife of 40 years, raised three children and had three grandchildren who kept them busy with sporting events, music concerts, and dance recitals. Throughout his decades of public service, Dave cherished his time with his family and made every effort to be with them.

That was Dave: a beloved mayor, a local historian, and, most of all, a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Today, my heart is with all those who knew and loved Smig. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2456. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing

and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred during fiscal years 2016 through 2019; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2457. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, three (3) legislative proposals aimed at enhancing benefits and aligning resources to provide further value for Federal employees and retirees while improving efficiency and effectiveness of program operations; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2458. A communication from the Regulations Unit Chief, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Immigration Bond Notifications” (RIN1653-AA85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2459. A communication from the Regulations Unit Chief, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Optional Alternatives to the Physical Document Examination Associated with Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9)” (RIN1653-AA86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2460. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department’s activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2461. A communication from the Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to establishing at least one advisory committee in each state and the District of Columbia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2462. A communication from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Official Seal Description” (RIN3147-AA27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2463. A communication from the Honors Attorney, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Wireless Telecommunication Bureau Conditionally Waives Certain Aspects of the Wireless Hearing Aid Compatibility Volume Control Testing Standard” (WT Docket No. 20-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2464. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Locomotive Image and Audio Recording Devices for Passenger Trains” (RIN2130-AC51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2465. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Trail Creek,

Michigan City, IN” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0303)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2466. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River Mile Marker 490.2-489.7 Davenport, IA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0067)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2467. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Savannah River, M/V BIGLIFT BAF-FIN, Savannah, GA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0977)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2468. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Atlantic Ocean; Surfside Beach, South Carolina” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0130)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2469. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Atlantic Ocean; Surfside Beach, South Carolina” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0130)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2470. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0118)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2471. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Macy’s July 4th Fireworks, East River, NY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0197)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2472. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0139)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2473. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi, TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-