

extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the issuance of national injunctions, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1241, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to permanently extend the exemption from the engine compartment portion of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills testing requirement for school bus drivers, and for other purposes.

S. 1296

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1296, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen disclosure requirements relating to foreign gifts and contracts, to prohibit contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes.

S. 1297

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1297, a bill to provide counsel for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of

S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision".

S. RES. 147

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 147, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

S. RES. 153

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 153, a resolution designating March 27, 2025, as "National Women in Agriculture Day".

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 158—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PARAPROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF SHOULD HAVE FAIR COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 158

Whereas paraprofessionals (also sometimes known as "paraeducators") include education assistants and instructional assistants who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education;

Whereas education support staff (also sometimes known as "classified school employees" or "education support professionals") include professionals who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education in clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, health and student services, technical services, and skilled trades;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 paraprofessionals and education support staff are the frontline workers who transform schools in the United States from brick and mortar buildings to places of learning and support for more than 49,000,000 students across the United States;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, school staff employment has fallen across positions and there are still 331,000 fewer school staff than before the COVID-19

pandemic, leaving schools without the necessary staff in almost every position;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a shortage of teachers has resulted in some paraprofessionals and education support staff being expected to assume the duties of teachers without commensurate compensation or benefits;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are undercompensated for their work, and do not receive a living wage, much less a competitive, family-sustaining living wage;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are, as a matter of practice, laid off at the end of each school year and rehired annually, and lack job security;

Whereas, unlike most school employees, many paraprofessionals and education support staff are not full-time employees because their services, including those of bus drivers and food service workers, are time delimited;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff lack access to high-quality, affordable health care because they are intentionally hired for insufficient hours to receive health and retirement benefits, or otherwise are charged exorbitant employee premiums for health insurance;

Whereas, while paraprofessionals and education support staff are often the most diverse subset of school employees, are more likely to have grown up in the communities they serve, and are the trusted school community members for many students and parents, the voices of paraprofessionals and education support staff are not always valued in forming school policies;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff often serve students facing systemic barriers, but are often excluded from professional growth and development opportunities;

Whereas, like many school employees, paraprofessionals and education support staff are too often subject to workplace violence and other safety hazards, including contaminants and extreme temperatures;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve real solutions that would empower them to—

- (1) work in a stable, safe environment;
- (2) have multi-year job security;
- (3) receive livable and competitive wages, access to sufficient hours, and fair compensation for their work; and
- (4) have a voice on the job and meaningful input in school policy;

Whereas respecting paraprofessionals and education support staff is essential to creating and maintaining safe and supportive school environments that are conducive to students learning and thriving; and

Whereas Congress seeks to recognize the rights, respect, and dignity that paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve as they continue to care for and educate the next generation: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) paraprofessionals and education support staff—

(A) should be compensated at a rate that is a livable, competitive wage;

(B) should have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare and healthcare benefits at a de minimus personal cost;

(C) should be considered to be eligible employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.);

(D) should be entitled to 16 weeks of paid family and medical leave;

(E) should have paid leave for all planned and unforeseen school closures, including weather-related closures, professional development days, and other short-term closures;

(F) should have access to meaningful and free or affordable professional growth and development opportunities during regular paid working hours that provide a path to career advancement;

(G) should have sufficient resources and supplies to enable them to do their job effectively and efficiently, including up-to-date technology;

(H) should have access to training and appropriate personal protective equipment;

(I) should have representation in organizations that determine policies that may affect the working conditions of paraprofessionals and education support staff;

(J) should receive notification and the opportunity to provide significant input about the implementation of electronic monitoring, data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence technology in the applicable school and should receive high-quality professional development as new technologies are introduced;

(K) should have adequate notice and opportunity to participate, when appropriate, in individualized education program meetings, behavior intervention team meetings, and other similar meetings relating to the students the paraprofessionals and education support staff support, to the extent permitted by law;

(L) should experience a safe and healthy working environment free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm;

(M) should experience appropriate staffing levels to ensure that students have adequate support and that paraprofessionals and education support staff can complete their jobs effectively, efficiently, and safely;

(N) should receive adequate notification regarding the duration of their employment;

(O) should have an employment contract that includes a provision for the automatic renewal of the contract at the expiration of the contract, rather than the automatic termination of the contract at such expiration, and a provision for termination of employment for just cause, rather than termination of employment at will; and

(P) should have a process for reporting workplace issues and concerns to their employer in a manner that protects paraprofessionals and education support staff and other employees from retaliation;

(2) in recognition of the importance of collective bargaining in maintaining good working conditions, employers of paraprofessionals and education support staff should—

(A) engage in good faith negotiations;

(B) strive to reach timely and just contracts that fairly compensate and protect paraprofessionals and education support staff;

(C) refrain from replacing paraprofessionals or education support staff who engage in a strike; and

(D) refrain from locking out such workers; and

(3) nothing in this resolving clause should be interpreted to supersede, or as an expression of the Senate's support for any law that would supersede, employment terms or conditions agreed upon in collective bargaining agreements that are more beneficial to paraprofessionals and education support staff than those described in this resolving clause.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 159—HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JOHN BENNETT JOHNSTON, JR., FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms.

ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 159

Whereas, on June 10, 1932, John Bennett Johnston, Jr. (referred to in this preamble as "Senator Johnston"), was born in Shreveport, Louisiana;

Whereas Senator Johnston graduated from C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, and later attended Washington and Lee University, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Louisiana State University Law School;

Whereas Senator Johnston excelled in his academic pursuits at Louisiana State University Law School, graduating with distinction as a member of the Order of the Coif in 1956;

Whereas Senator Johnston married Mary Hunter Gunn in 1956, and they later had 4 children and 10 grandchildren;

Whereas Senator Johnston served as a First Lieutenant in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, and was stationed in Germany from 1956 to 1959;

Whereas Senator Johnston began his career in public service to the State of Louisiana as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1964 to 1968, where he served as floor leader before his election to the Louisiana State Senate, where he served from 1968 to 1972;

Whereas the people of the State of Louisiana elected Senator Johnston to represent the State of Louisiana in the Senate, where he served from 1972 to 1997;

Whereas Senator Johnston served on several important committees throughout his Senate career, including—

- (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
- (2) the Committee on Appropriations;
- (3) the Committee on the Budget;
- (4) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship;

(5) the Special Committee on Aging; and

(6) the Select Committee on Intelligence;

Whereas his tenure as Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from 1987 to 1995 cemented the legacy of Senator Johnston as guiding the energy policy of the United States;

Whereas Senator Johnston achieved many legislative triumphs important to the State of Louisiana during his tenure in the Senate, supporting and passing legislation on—

- (1) flood control and hurricane protection;
- (2) natural resource conservation;
- (3) expanding offshore oil and gas drilling off the coast of the State of Louisiana;
- (4) deregulating the natural gas industry; and

(5) national energy security, including Senate Bill 2166, 102d Congress, a comprehensive energy measure providing for national security and reducing the dependency of the United States on foreign energy;

Whereas Senator Johnston championed legislation to create national wildlife refuges, to preserve more than 120,000 acres of Louisiana-inland wetlands, and to honor the rich history of the State of Louisiana through the establishment of the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park and the Cane River Creole National Historical Park;

Whereas Senator Johnston lived to be 92 years old; and

Whereas, throughout his life, Senator Johnston served the State of Louisiana and the United States with integrity and distinction, and never wavered in his commitment to honorable public service: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John Bennett Johnston, Jr. (referred to in this resolution as "Honorable Bennett Johnston"), former Senator from the State of Louisiana; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Bennett Johnston; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Bennett Johnston.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 160—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 160

Whereas, each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, fiber, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground utility lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to having underground utility lines located often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;