

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a markup on the following nominations:

(1) Leigh Bradley, Esq., to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs;

(2) Eligh Dane Clark to be Chairman, Board of Veterans Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs;

(3) Edward A. Powell, Jr. to be Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(4) Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H., to be Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The markup will take place in S-216, of the Capitol Building, after the first scheduled vote in the Senate on Tuesday afternoon, October 6, 1998.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct a hearing on S. 1097, the Acid Deposition Control Act Tuesday, October 6, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, RESTRUCTURING AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia to meet on Tuesday, October 6, 1998, at 2 p.m. for a hearing on "Agency Management of the Implementation of the Coal Act."

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous men and women who serve in the United States Navy.

The origins of the Navy can be traced back to October 13, 1775, when the Continental Congress ordered the construction of ships for use in the War of Independence. It was at this time that the Continental Navy was formed, nine months before America declared itself independent. However, it wasn't until later, on April 30, 1798, that the Department of the Navy was established and Benjamin Stoddert was appointed its first Secretary. This past spring we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Department of the Navy.

Today, the United States Navy has grown to a force of nearly 400,000 active

duty and 96,000 Reserves. During times of war, these brave individuals join with the other Armed Forces and valiantly risk their lives to defend America's freedom and national interests. During times of peace, the Navy is engaged in promoting regional economic and political stability by maintaining a global presence both above and beneath the surface of the seas.

The Navy is organized into three main components. The first component, the Navy Department, consists of the Washington, D.C. executive offices and the Secretary of Defense. The second component, the operating forces, includes the Marine Corps, the reserve components and during times of war, the U.S. Coast Guard. The operating component trains and equips naval forces. The third component, the shore establishment, provides intelligence support, medical and dental facilities, training areas, communications centers, and facilities for the repair of machinery and electronics. Together these components form a strong force ready to defend the seas whenever freedom is threatened.

An important division of the Navy is the Naval Reserve. Today, the Naval Reserve comprises 20 percent of the Navy's total assets. These dedicated men and women have provided assistance as medical personnel and offered fleet intelligence support in operations such as Desert Shield and Desert Storm. At other times, the Naval Reserve has helped provide humanitarian assistance and has engaged in maritime patrol. Over the years, the Naval Reserve has evolved from a reactive to a proactive force ready to meet the challenges of the next century.

Minnesota is home to 282 active duty Navy servicepeople, of which 35 are officers and 247 are enlisted. In addition, Minnesota has 1,540 Navy reservists, of which 340 are officers and 1,200 are enlisted.

Mr. President, since its founding over 200 years ago, the Navy has shown the utmost dedication and service while protecting our national interests. I truly appreciate its commitment to defending this nation and am honored today to pay tribute to the men and women of the United States Navy. •

HONORING JOSEPH C. AND LUCILLE PARISI

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to join the Holy Name Healthcare Foundation in honoring Joseph C. Parisi and Lucille his wife as they receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Parisi's record of community activism and involvement has been extensive, and I am pleased to recognize them on this occasion.

Joseph C. Parisi has served as Mayor of Englewood Cliffs since 1976. Prior to that he served on the town council for four years and was also the Englewood Cliffs Police Commissioner. His involvement in the Englewood Cliffs community for over twenty-five years

has made Englewood Cliffs one of the finest towns in the North Jersey area. Mayor Parisi has worked on behalf of a diverse pool of charitable and civic organizations that include the Witte Scholarship Fund, the Quincentennial Columbus Day Celebration, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Knights of Columbus. The Englewood Chamber of Commerce, UNICO, and the New Jersey Insurance Agents, have all honored Mayor Parisi as their "Man of the Year" in the past.

Lucille Parisi has equaled her husband's accomplishments in a number of civic organizations. As President of the Hudson County Independent Insurance Agents, President of the Englewood Cliffs Democratic Club, and Director of the Fort Lee Savings and Loan, Lucille has been an active member of the community. For the past 16 years, she has also served on the Board of Trustees and the Foundation of the Holy Name Hospital.

As a native of Bergen County, I have known the Parisis well for many years. I have seen their dedication to the Englewood Cliffs Community firsthand, and I have consistently been impressed by their level of commitment. They truly embody the activism and dedication to community that is so vital.

I know they will inspire others to take an interest in improving their communities. They have earned a place in the hearts of Englewood Cliffs residents, and it is my pleasure to be able to honor them and their family on this occasion. •

RETIREMENT OF DARLENE GARCIA

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, as United States Senators, we are often fortunate to have people of exceptional ability work for us. It is, however, unusual to have someone of unlimited compassion helping the people in the State we represent. Darlene Garcia is a person of unlimited compassion and I have been very lucky to have her on my staff for the last 20 years.

Darlene is the Director of my Las Cruces office. This is one of the fastest growing areas in New Mexico, and Darlene has her finger on the pulse on it all. She has helped hundreds of New Mexicans with their veterans benefits, social security, food stamps, and immigration problems. Darlene knows how to make the Federal Government do what it is supposed to do for its citizens. In fact, Darlene knows how to make U.S. Senators do what is right by their constituents.

I sometimes say, there isn't any kind of care that Darlene hasn't championed be it health care, child care, or elder care. She has always worked for more and better care for the people of Southern New Mexico because it is Darlene who rally cares. Darlene is the doer of good deeds. If good deed were dollars, she would have surpassed Bill Gates years ago.

Darlene always has a smile for everyone who walks into my office. She always knows who to call to solve a problem. She has been a mother figure and an inspiration to all of the young people who have interned in my Las Cruces office.

Darlene has been my representative to the business community, worked extensively with county and municipal government officials and of course, the Hispanic community. She has worked on border issues and has helped keep the Texans under control. The latter is no small feat.

I want to thank Darlene for all of her hard work, and wish her the best in retirement. God bless you, Darlene, for all that you have done for me and for the people of New Mexico.●

HONORING RODRIGO D'ESCOTO

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my honor to rise today to recognize a distinguished resident and successful businessman from my home state of Illinois, Mr. Rodrigo d'Escoto. Last month, Mr. d'Escoto was named the National Minority Male Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Development Agency. This award recognizes Mr. d'Escoto's Hispanic heritage, his success as an entrepreneur, and his service and dedication to the community.

Mr. d'Escoto is the founder and chairman of d'Escoto, Inc., a Chicago-based architectural engineering firm. Established in 1972, d'Escoto, Inc. is one of the largest Hispanic-owned firms of its kind in the Midwest. Over the last twenty five years, the firm has participated in some of the most ambitious and important design/construction projects in the Chicago area. These projects include the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Expansion project, the expansion of the McCormick Place Convention Center and Hotel, the construction of the new Cook County Hospital, the ongoing expansion of O'Hare International Airport and the construction of the airport's new international terminal. Certainly, Rodrigo d'Escoto and d'Escoto Inc. have contributed greatly to the look and structure of Chicago, one of the world's great architectural cities.

As is often the case with someone who has achieved so much professionally, Rodrigo d'Escoto is a committed community member. Among the many boards and organizations that Mr. d'Escoto has given his time and expertise to are: the Harold Washington Foundation, the Urban League, the United Way, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Pilsen Resurrection Development Corporation, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, the Centro Hispano Americano, the City of Chicago Planning Commission, the Alliance of Latinos and Jews, and the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association. It is important

to note that this is only a partial list of the many worthwhile and important enterprises that Rodrigo d'Escoto has touched over the years.

Mr. President, as one can see, the dimensions of Rodrigo d'Escoto's professional and civic accomplishments are of breathtaking proportions. Indeed, he is quite deserving of being named the National Minority Male Entrepreneur of the Year. I am confident that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. d'Escoto and d'Escoto, Inc. for this prestigious award, and in wishing them much continued success in the future.●

HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the Higher Education Reauthorization Act that passed the Senate by a 96-0 vote last week.

Mr. President, this legislation illustrates this Congress' strong support for education, particularly higher education. This bill will make strong investments in our future by increasing the availability of financial aid to students in need, thereby allowing more students to benefit from our higher education system. Specifically, the bill lowers students' five-year loan rate to the lowest it has been for 17 years. Congress was able to strike a balance of lowering the rates students pay on their loans to 7.46 percent while keeping commercial lenders in the market. This reduction in interest rates will result in a savings of \$700 on the average debt of \$13,000 and savings of more than \$1,000 on a \$20,000 debt. By striking this balance, the long-term stability of the student loan program will continue.

The Higher Education Reauthorization Act also increases the maximum Pell Grant available to low-income students. Beginning in 1999, the maximum student Pell Grant authorization level will increase gradually each year from the current level of \$3,000 to \$5,800 in 2003. This change will enable low-income students to afford college and accumulate less debt.

The bill also includes an important change to the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) program that is of particular importance to me. Under this legislation, the SSIG program was reformed and changed to the Special Leveraging Education Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program. Working with Senators JEFFORDS, COLLINS, and REED, I was able to have language included under the LEAP Program to provide scholarships for low-income students studying mathematics, computer science, or engineering. I believe this language is particularly important given the current shortage of high-tech workers. Through the LEAP program, States are provided matching money from the Federal Government to provide grants for students entering various fields of study.

The Higher Education Reauthorization Act makes a strong commitment

to pre-K and K-12 education by creating a loan forgiveness program for students who earn a degree and obtain employment in the child care industry, as well as for students who gain teaching jobs in school districts serving large populations of low-income children. The loan forgiveness program will provide an important incentive for teachers to go into underserved areas and fields. Coupled with this provision, the Higher Education Act strengthens and promotes greater accountability within current teacher preparation programs. The legislation provides State and local partnerships with incentives to place a greater focus on academics and strong teaching skills for teacher certification programs. By focusing on teacher preparation, this bill increases the likelihood that students will be adequately prepared and able to succeed in our higher education system.

In all, this legislation demonstrates the bipartisan nature of this Congress' commitment to education. This bill will impact thousands of college-bound students each year and will prepare thousands of school-age children for higher education in the years to come.●

THE TRUE STORY OF HYDROGEN AND THE "HINDENBURG" DISASTER

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, for many years I have spoken of the promise of hydrogen energy as our best hope for an environmentally safe sustainable energy future. My vision, and the vision of many of our top scientists is simple. Hydrogen, which is produced by renewable energy with absolutely no pollution and no resource depletion of any kind, will prove a truly sustainable energy option.

I recognize that hydrogen is not yet a form of energy widely known to the American public. In fact, hydrogen has an unfortunate association. I would like to spend a few minutes dispelling one unfortunate myth of hydrogen energy.

Mr. President, mention the word "hydrogen" and many people remember the *Hindenburg*—the dirigible that caught fire back in May of 1937, killing 36 of the 97 people on board. Now, thanks to the scientific sleuthing of Addison Bain, a retired NASA scientist with 30 years experience with hydrogen, we can state with a fair degree of certainty that the *Hindenburg* would have caught fire even without any hydrogen on board.

This detective story was reported in a recent issue of *Popular Science*. I ask that the *Popular Science* article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Addison Bain collected actual samples from the *Hindenburg*—the cloth bags that contained the hydrogen—which were saved as souvenirs by the crowd awaiting the *Hindenburg* at Lakehurst, New Jersey on May 6, 1937. When these samples were analyzed by modern techniques, Bain discovered