

"(c) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the term of a marketing assistance loan made to producers on a farm for any loan commodity until September 30, 1998."

#### D'AMATO AMENDMENT NO. 2163

Mr. STEVENS (for Mr. D'AMATO) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1768, *supra*; as follows:

On page 38, after line 18, add the following new section:

"SEC. . The Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure not later than April 20, 1998, on the proposed use by the New York City Police Department for air and sea rescue and public safety purposes of the facility that is to be vacated by the U.S. Coast Guard at Floyd Bennett Field located in the City of New York."

#### KENNEDY (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 2164

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. WELLSTONE) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 2120 proposed by Mr. NICKLES to the bill, S. 1768, *supra*; as follows:

On page 39, in lieu of the matter proposed to be stricken, insert the following:

#### HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

For an additional amount for Health Care Financing Administration, "Program Management", \$8,000,000.

On page 50, in lieu of the matter proposed to be stricken, insert the following:

#### GENERAL PROVISION, CHAPTER 11

SEC. 1101. Not to exceed \$75,400,000 may be obligated in fiscal year 1998 for contacts with Utilization and Quality Control Peer Review Organization pursuant to part B of title XI of the Social Security Act.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

##### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Request for the Small Business Administration—Part II." The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 2, 1998, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The hearing will be broadcast live on the Internet from our homepage address: <http://www.senate.gov/sbc>

For further information, please contact Paul Cooksey at 224-5175.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 26, 1998, at 10 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony on Department of Energy atomic energy defense activities in review of the Defense authorization

request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years Defense program.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 26, 1998, to conduct a hearing on the implications of the recent Supreme Court decision concerning credit union membership.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to continue markup of S. 8, the Superfund Cleanup Acceleration Act of 1997, Thursday, March 26, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

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

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 26, 1998, at 10 a.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen office building.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Subcommittee on Children and Families, be authorized to meet for a hearing on Head Start during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 26, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 2 p.m. on S. 1221—American Fisheries Act.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 2 p.m. to receive testimony on the Department of Defense Domestic Emergency Response Program and support to the interagency preparedness efforts, including the Federal response plan and the city training program, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years Defense program.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### THE VETERANS BURIAL RIGHTS ACT OF 1998

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998. I want to personally thank Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI, my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the former chairman of the committee, and Senator PAUL SARBANES for joining me in introducing this legislation.

I also want to thank the veterans service organizations that worked with us to draft this very important legislation. I particularly want to thank the veterans of my state who first brought this issue to my attention and who have been true partners in this effort.

I introduced this legislation for a very simple reason: every day, veterans are being buried across this nation without full military honors—honors earned through service to us all. And that is not right.

The Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998 is a common sense piece of legislation of great importance to the veterans of our country. Our bill requires the Department of Defense to provide honor guard services upon request at the funerals of our veterans. Our bill is the right thing to do.

Our country has asked a lot of our veterans. I believe we have a responsibility to tell each and every veteran that we remember and we honor their service to our country. The Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998 gives meaning to the words "on behalf of a grateful nation," that accompanies the presentation of the flag to the family at a funeral.

I can speak personally to the importance of this legislation. I lost my own father last year, a World War II veteran and proud member of the Disabled American Veterans. My family was lucky. We were able to arrange for an honor guard at his service. Having the honor guard there for my family made a big difference and a lasting impression. We were all—and particularly my mother—filled with pride at a very difficult moment for our family, as Dad's service was recognized one final time. It should be this way for every family who lays a veteran to rest.

With a downsized military, installations are no longer able to provide trained personnel to perform military honors for every veteran. Veterans service organizations have stepped in and tried to provide the color guard services for deceased fellow veterans. And by most accounts, they do a pretty good job. But VSO's cannot meet the need for color guard services. By their own admission they often lack the crispness and the precision of trained military personnel.

Our veterans' population is getting older. More than 36,000 World War II veterans are dying each month. In my own state, close to 5,000 veterans are being laid to rest each month. We cannot expect a group of older veterans to provide these honor guard services day in and day out for their military peers. We are simply asking too much of a generation that has already given so much.

I believe we have a responsibility to act. This bill will ensure that every veteran receives a funeral worthy of patriotic service to our country. By passing the Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998, the Congress will send a powerful message to veterans that their service to us all will never be forgotten.

I encourage all Members of the Senate to join in this effort.●

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on March 24, 1998, I joined Senators SARBANES and MURRAY in a bipartisan effort to correct a policy that is a disservice to our veterans. The issue we are addressing is the failure of the military to provide appropriate representation at a veteran's funeral in a military cemetery. To remedy this failure, we have introduced the "Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998" that corrects this failure.

Currently, the Department of Defense allows commanders in the field to decide what level of military representation there will be at the funeral of a veteran. It is becoming a common practice for the military to send a single representative to provide the mourning family with the American flag along with an audio tape recording of Taps.

Mr. President, I find it astounding that families mourning the loss of a veteran would be expected to bring a boom box to a funeral in order that a tape of Taps can be played. Is this the way the military thinks it is appropriate to honor the memory of a serviceman or woman who has served their country honorably? For the sacrifice that veterans have made, DoD can only respond with a single person and a tape recording. This is a slap in the face of the honor of all who have served.

Mr. President, because I believe veterans deserve more, I have worked with my colleagues Senator MURRAY and Senator SARBANES to set a minimum level of effort by the military for veteran funerals.

As a former Chairman and member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I know that it is impossible to completely repay our debt to our veterans. However, I believe Congress can find ways to show our gratitude and respect.

On Tuesday, we introduced legislation that requires at least a five person honor guard for veteran burials upon request. DoD, if it chooses, can send a larger contingent, but the five person honor guard will be minimum representation. And the legislation requires that one of the five representatives plays Taps—not a tape recording!

This legislation will also allow National Guard and Reserves to perform this duty, thus increasing the resources available to DoD for this duty. Serving in the honor guard will not count as a period of drill or training. I believe this is necessary to preserve the readiness of the Guard and Reserves, who are playing a larger role in our downsized military.

Mr. President, I know when I have seen funerals with a military honor guard, I walk away humbled. When we pay our respects for those who have served, it is the little things that make the difference. Five men or women participating in the service not only gives a final honor to the veteran but also recognizes the sacrifice the veteran and the family have made.

I hope that my colleagues will join us in cosponsoring the "Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998." A veteran should be remembered for their service and sacrifice. There is no better way to remind everyone of this, than with a military honor guard. It is the least that we can do to show our respects and gratitude for our veterans.●

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleagues, Senators MURRAY and MURKOWSKI, as an original co-sponsor of S.1825, The Veterans' Burial Rites Act of 1998. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure the continued availability of military burial honors to our veterans.

More and more families across the country are discovering that, due to budgetary cutbacks, full military burial honors are not available for their relatives who have served in the armed forces. In many cases that have been brought to my attention, families are now being told that the best they can expect for these loved ones—who clearly deserve a funeral with full military honors—is a taped rendition of "taps" and a lone representative from the armed services.

In my view, a society is not only judged by the way it treats its aging, its children and its least fortunate, but also by how it dignifies and honors its deceased. Knowing of the commitment and sacrifice of the armed forces and how important military honors are to those who serve and to their families, it would seem that maintaining these rites would be a high priority for the Department of Defense. It is very difficult for me to understand any degradation or lapse in this regard.

When I first learned of this growing problem, in late 1997, I wrote to the Secretary of Defense, urging him to personally review this matter and identify the means to reinstate traditional military honors for those who have served. I have now joined forces with Senators MURRAY and MURKOWSKI in introducing this legislation in an effort to ensure that full burial honors will always be available to our nation's veterans when requested. Simply, this legislation would ensure that the sufficient manpower and funding is available for requested burial details to con-

sist of at least five members of the armed services, National Guardsmen, or Reservists—including a bugler, a firing party, and a flag bearer.

In my view, the issue is clear and our commitment should be unwavering. Our veterans are always there when this country is in need. Rightfully, they have come to expect certain commitments in return which ensure them the dignity they deserve—in life and in death. In my view, it is our obligation to continue to provide these honors without hesitation and without degradation. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GEORGETOWN COLLEGE: 1998 N.A.I.A. BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President: I rise today to recognize basketball excellence. As you may know, basketball is a way of life in Kentucky. While people are most familiar with Kentucky's two Division IA schools, our state also has its share of small schools that do not always receive the recognition they are due. It is one of those schools that I want to recognize today: the 1998 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Basketball Champions: the Tigers of Georgetown College, located in the town of Georgetown, Kentucky.

On March 23, led by NAIA first team All-America sophomore center Will Carlton, Georgetown defeated Southern Nazarene College 83-69 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After a roller coaster first half that included a thirteen point deficit, Georgetown took a one point lead into the locker room at halftime. Midway through the second half, the Tigers exploded for 17-2 run fueled by Carlton and teammate Barry Bowman, who combined for 15 of those 17 points. During the penultimate run, the offense of Carlton and Bowman was supported by solid defense that held Southern Nazarene to only two free throws in the six and a half minutes.

This national title is the first in Georgetown College basketball history. Having lost in the finals on two previous occasions—1961 and 1996—these Tigers, led by coach Happy Osborne finished their dream season with a record of 36-3. They steadily improved their play throughout the tournament, symbolized by their cutting their turnovers from 30 in the first round to only nine in the final.

While this National Championship was the result of a total team effort, it is worth noting that Carlton, a sophomore, and Bowman, a junior, were joined by senior David Shee on the all-tournament team. After averaging nearly 22 points and 12 rebounds in the tournament, Carlton received the Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player Award for the tournament.

Mr. President, I congratulate Coach Osborne and his team on a marvelous season culminating in this NAIA National Championship, their version of March Madness. And with most of