Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing sons and daughters who served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives were sacrificed in our wars;

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Veterans’ Administration, and aid the men and women who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities;

Whereas the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America have strengthened and inspired our Nation throughout our history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and the mothers of America, we reverse and emphasize the role of the home and the family as the true foundations of our Nation;

Military construction and veterans affairs appropriations

Amendments nos. 1870 and 1871

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 239, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 239) supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers’ Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 239) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 239

Whereas infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before it reaches its first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 28th among industrialized nations in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas in the United States, infant mortality increased in 2002, for the first time in more than 4 decades;

Whereas the recent increase is a significant and troubling public health issue, especially for African American families, Native American families, and Hispanic families;

Whereas the infant mortality rate among African American women is more than double that of Caucasian women, according to a report produced by the National Healthy Start Association and by a related group supported by the health department of Allegheny County, in the State of Pennsylvania;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services has designated 2010, as the year by which certain objectives should be met with respect to the health status of the people of the United States;

Whereas such objectives, known as Healthy People 2010, include an objective regarding a decrease in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas September 1, 2005, is the beginning of a period of several months during which there will be several national observances related to the issues of infant mortality, including the observance of October as Sudden Infant Death Awareness Month and November as Prematurity Awareness Month;

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe September 2005, as Infant Mortality Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month in order to—

(1) increase national awareness of infant mortality and its contributing factors; and

(2) facilitate activities that will assist local communities in their efforts to meet the objective, as established by the Secretary of Health and Human Service in Healthy People 2010, that the rate of infant mortality in the United States be reduced to a rate of not more than 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 births.

Measure Star Printed—S. 1692

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1692, the Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance Act of 2005, be star-printed with the changes at the desk.

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

Measures placed on the calendar—S. 1745 and S. 1748

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will please read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1745) to expand the availability of resources under the Community Services...
S10392

Congressional Record — Senate September 22, 2005

Block Grant Act for individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina.

A bill (S. 1748) to establish a congressional commission to examine the Federal, State, and local response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Region of the United States especially in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and other regions in the aftermath and make immediate corrective measures to improve such responses in the future.

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection being heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1761

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read the title of this bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1761) to clarify the liability of Government contractors assisting in rescue, recovery, repair, and reconstruction work in the Gulf Coast Region of the United States affected by Hurricane Katrina or other major disasters.

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection being heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

AMENDING THE UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1752, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1752) to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to reauthorize that Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate complete its business today, itadjourn until 1 p.m. on Monday, September 26. I further ask consent that the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 317, John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the United States. I further ask consent that the time from 1:30 to 2:30 be under the control of the majority leader or his designee, the time from 2:30 to 3:30 be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, 3:30 to 4:30 under majority control, and 4:30 to 5:30 under the control of the Democratic side.

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

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, the Senate does continue to make steady progress on the business of the American people. We are working hard to deliver meaningful relief in the Gulf region in a fiscally responsible way.

We moved quickly in the initial days to allocate appropriate funding. We also lifted the burden of student loans for those displaced from colleges and universities.

Mr. Frist. Mr. President, next week we will begin to debate the nomination of Judge John Roberts to be America's Chief Justice. I am confident it will be a thoughtful consideration that once again has been quite dignified and civil. We will continue that momentum as we go through next week. A final vote on his nomination will be held on Thursday, and I look forward to a full and robust debate that brings credit to this great institution.

Mr. President, the order we have laid out provides that we will begin the Roberts nomination on Monday. We are prepared to have Senators deliver