

brands—Marlboros, Camels and Newports. Moreover, ninety-one percent of six year-olds identify Joe Camel as a symbol of smoking.

As a result, 3,000 children a day, convinced through a combination of peer pressure, advertising and popular culture, start smoking. 1,000 of these youngsters will ultimately die from tobacco related illnesses.

President Clinton has taken a historic move in directing the Food and Drug Administration to enact the first-ever program to protect children from tobacco. The FDA has concluded that cigarettes and smokeless tobacco are delivery devices for nicotine, a drug that causes addiction and other significant pharmacological effects.

The FDA's regulations, which are intended to reduce underage tobacco use by fifty percent over the next seven years, include long overdue restrictions on advertising and marketing, along with an industry sponsored tobacco control campaign.

I strongly support President Clinton's heroic leadership on this most important issue. Unfortunately, the tobacco industry has many allies here on Capitol Hill who will most likely launch an effort to derail the FDA's regulations.

According to recent reports, the tobacco industry, in just the first six months on 1996, has spent more than \$15 million lobbying Congress, the White House and federal agencies. Moreover, campaign donations, both soft and hard, are up dramatically, as the industry prepares to launch a most expensive offense against federal efforts to control youth tobacco use.

While the industry may have the financial wherewithal to spend millions of dollars to influence legislators and advertise their misleading messages, public opinion seems to have permanently shifted against Big Tobacco. Through internal documents and the brave testimony of former employees, two of who are here today, decades of duplicity on behalf of the Big Tobacco have been exposed and etched into the collective consciousness of the American people.

Those of us in Congress who support President Clinton's actions on tobacco have a responsibility to not only herald these regulations but also hold the line against industry efforts to water them down. Today's hearing should reinforce the idea that the FDA's regulations, and jurisdiction, is necessary to protect future generations of American children. Once again, I applaud the leadership of Senators Kennedy and Lautenberg on this issue and I look forward to working with both of them in the future.●

SALUTE TO "ODYSSEY OF THE MIND" PARTICIPANTS FROM BETHANY, CONNECTICUT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of remarkable young people from my home State of Connecticut. For the past 4 years, students from Bethany, a small, rural community in Connecticut, have participated in an international problem-solving competition called Odyssey of the Mind. This competition gives children in grades kindergarten through 12 the opportunity to develop their problem-solving and team-building skills by challenging students to develop unique ways to solve one of five long-term problems. A team spends countless hours together to develop and perfect a unique solution to the problem set before them. Their efforts are judged in a state competition

and the winning team is asked to represent their state or country at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Earlier this year, two groups of students from Bethany, CT, won first place in their respective categories at Connecticut's Odyssey of the Mind State Finals and traveled to Iowa to represent the State of Connecticut at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Connecticut is very proud of Rosa Allison, David Berv, Ian Stebinger, Amanda Kaletsky, Amanda Sherman and Grace Menzies, who made up a team that won a gold medal in the Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind Competition 3 years in a row. I would also like to salute the hard work and dedication of Joshua Gewirtz, Elizabeth Cowan, Matt Voloshin, Jane Ballerini, Peter Geloso, Kerrilee Hunter and Paula Rashkow who also represented Connecticut at the Odyssey of the Mind Finals this year. In addition, I congratulate the students' coaches for a job well done.

Clearly, these young students are fine examples of what can be accomplished when people put aside their differences and work together toward a common goal. Their creativity, hard work, perseverance and willingness to take risks remind us that Yankee ingenuity is still alive in Connecticut. I salute these young people and am confident that we will all be hearing more about these exceptional students in the future.

COMMEMORATION OF LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I want to acknowledge a group of citizens in West Virginia who are speaking out on the issue of lawsuit abuse in an effort to serve the public.

In many areas of West Virginia, local citizens have volunteered their time to start Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups and to initiate public awareness campaigns in their areas about what they see as the problems of lawsuit abuse.

The CALA groups focus on education. These citizens are speaking out about an issue that has statewide and national implications. The costs of lawsuits can include higher costs for consumer products, higher medical expenses, higher taxes, and fewer jobs due to lost business expansion and forgone product development.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse has a straightforward goal. They want to help the public prevent unnecessary lawsuits that do more harm than good.

West Virginians are not the type of people to walk away from a problem. When we see something that's clearly wrong, we work to make people aware of it, and we try to make it right. CALA members believe that they have the opportunity to reform our laws so that the legal system is more fair, more effective, and more sensible to serve everyone's interests.

These nonprofit groups have raised local funds to run educational media

announcements and are speaking to local organizations and citizen groups across the State to raise public awareness on the lawsuit abuse issue.

While the local groups have thousands of supporters, there are also a few individuals who should be recognized for their leadership and for dedicating countless volunteer hours. These individuals are: Tom Harriman of Kingwood, founding chairman of CALA of northern West Virginia; Jim Thomas of Charleston and Jack Klim of Huntington, cofounders and spokespersons of CALA of southern West Virginia; and Ken Lowe of Shepherdstown, founding chairman of CALA of eastern West Virginia.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups have declared September 22 through September 28, 1996, to be Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week in West Virginia. I want to commend all of the individuals who are involved in Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for their dedication and commitment to this important citizen education project.

As someone who has been a leader in the battle of product liability reform, I continue to hope for the kind of education, dialog, and consensus-building clearly needed to address problems in our legal process that hurt consumers, victims, and the private sector. I encourage CALA to continue raising these issues and promoting solutions that ensure justice and improve the legal system. West Virginia and the country as a whole need informed, educated, and dedicated citizens to help elected officials address serious issues and achieve reforms when necessary.●

POSTAL SERVICE IN GEORGIA

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as we complete the appropriations process for fiscal year 1997, I would like to take this opportunity to make my colleagues aware of the unacceptable manner in which the Postal Service has operated in a matter involving an address change request in my home State of Georgia.

Mr. President, for 25 years, residents of an area informally known as Centerville, GA, located in Gwinnett County, have been trying to work with the Postal Service for a facility that is closer to their homes, and an address that reflects the location in which they live. Although these Georgians reside in Gwinnett County, their address is dictated by the Postal Service is Lithonia, GA—a town that is approximately 15 miles away, and is located in a different county.

Not only are those citizens having problems with their mail delivery, such as stolen and misdelivered mail, their address designations has created great confusion in dealing with everyday household issues such as emergency service, insurance, property taxes, sales taxes and parcel delivery. Even small matters, such as ordering a take-out pizza, often result in unnecessary confusion and inconvenience when giving addresses. In addition, a round trip

to the post office to pick up certified mail or parcels is more than a 30 minute round trip for these people—metro-Atlanta traffic notwithstanding.

Instead of recognizing the problems that the Postal Service's address designation was causing for these residents and trying to work out a mutually agreeable solution, the Postal Service has treated the requests of these residents in a manner unbecoming of an agency of the United States, and has acted in complete disregard for principle. In the name of efficient delivery of mail, the Postal Service has steadfastly refused the repeated requests of these residents to move their routes to a facility in Snellville, GA, which is located less than 3 miles from their homes. Postal Service representatives have even gone as far as to attack the motives of the residents requesting this change.

Mr. President, to give you an idea of the overwhelming community commitment to a change of address, approximately 5,000 Gwinnett County residents have been assigned a Lithonia address by the Postal Service, and my office received a petition from 4,024 of these residents requesting an address change.

When this matter first came to my attention, our office in conjunction with Congressman JOHN LINDER made several inquiries to the Postal Service, and at each point received conflicting responses. As we delved further into the matter, we learned that the Postal Service had not been completely open and honest in its responses.

Postal representatives have also refused to honor an offer to set up temporary postal facilities if a location could be found rent-free for 2 years. There appears to be some confusion among postal representatives on the exact details of the offer.

We understand and appreciate the Postal Service's mission of timely and efficient delivery of our mail, but this does not override the fact that the Postal Service is an agency of the U.S. Government and is subject to abide by the principles of government by the people and for the people as is outlined in our Constitution.

After almost a year of negotiations, the Postal Service has now made an offer to the residents to change the last line of their address to Annistown, GA, and to provide them with a new Zip Code. However, the Zip Code change has yet to be approved. Although this does not solve the problem of the proximity of a postal facility, it will help them in dealing with the difficulties that their address was creating. I therefore urge the swift approval of this Zip Code change by the Postal Service.

At a town meeting held to discuss the proposal, the Postal Service refused to officially attend to answer questions that the community had about the proposed change. However, after the meeting, we learned that Postal Service employees secretly attended the meeting and took notes.

Mr. President, it is my opinion that this type of behavior is completely inappropriate for the employees of an agency of the U.S. Government. The Postal Service had every opportunity to make its argument in a public forum, and chose not to do so.

This is the second entanglement I have had with the Postal Service where I have found their behavior to be an abomination to the citizens of our country. If the Postal Service continues to operate in such a manner, we must consider the need for further congressional oversight.●

COMMENDING OPERATION SAIL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 64, a joint resolution to commend Operation Sail, introduced earlier today by Senators DODD, D'AMATO, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 64) to commend Operation Sail for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be deemed read three times; passed; the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; further, that any statements relating thereto appear at this point in the RECORD, as if read.

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

The preamble is agreed to.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 64) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S.J. RES. 64

Whereas Operation Sail is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to building good will among nations and encouraging international camaraderie;

Whereas Operation Sail has represented and promoted the United States of America in the international tall ship community since 1964, organizing and participating in numerous tall ship events across the United States and around the world;

Whereas Operation Sail has worked in partnership with every American President since President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas Operation Sail has established a great tradition of celebrating major events and milestones in United States history with a gathering of the world's tall ships, and will continue this great tradition with a gathering of ships in New York Harbor, called OpSail 2000, to celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States of America and to welcome the new millennium;

Whereas President Clinton has endorsed OpSail 2000, as Presidents Kennedy, Carter,

Reagan, and Bush have endorsed Operation Sail in previous endeavors;

Whereas OpSail 2000 promises to be the largest gathering in history of tall ships and other majestic vessels like those that have sailed the ocean for centuries;

Whereas in conjunction with OpSail 2000, the United States Navy will conduct an International Naval Review; and

Whereas the International Naval Review will include a naval aircraft carrier as a symbol of the international good will of the United States of America; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) Operation Sail is commended for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship;

(2) all Americans and citizens of nations around the world are encouraged to join in the celebration of the 224th birthday of the United States of America and the international camaraderie that Operation Sail and the International Naval Review will foster; and

(3) Operation Sail is encouraged to continue into the next millennium to represent and promote the United States of America in the international tall ship community, and to continue organizing and participating in tall ship events across the United States and around the world.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item 515, Senate Resolution 275.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 275) to express the sense of the Senate concerning Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in bold face brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in *italic*.)

S. RES. 275

Whereas, prior to 1979, Afghanistan was a peaceful, united country;

Whereas, the successful fight of brave men and women of Afghanistan resisting the Soviet invasion and occupation of 1979–1989 was a significant element in the dissolution of the Soviet empire;

Whereas the dissolution of the Soviet empire brought freedom to the nations of central and eastern Europe as well as to the nations of central Asia;

Whereas although many years after the Soviet Union withdrawal, Afghanistan does not enjoy the peace it has earned;

Whereas the United Nations can play a unique and important role in bringing an end to the conflict in Afghanistan; and