

Many of my colleagues know that I introduced the Safe Schools Act of 1999 to provide resources to public schools so they can remain safe and strong cornerstones of our communities. As we move into the 21st century, we must adapt our approach to education to meet the changing needs of students, teachers and parents.

Although I am one of the youngest members of the Senate, I grew up in Helena, Arkansas during what seemed to be a much simpler time. Our parents pulled together to make everyone's education experience a success. Students came to school prepared to learn. Teachers had control of their classroom. The threat of school violence was virtually non-existent.

Now, more than twenty years later, things are different—very different. Our children are subjected to unprecedented social stresses including divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, poverty and an explosion of technology that has good and bad uses.

These stresses exhibit themselves in the behavior of teenagers, as well as in our young children. Increasingly, elementary school children exhibit symptoms of substance abuse, academic underachievement, disruptive behavior, and even suicide.

Although school shootings will probably not occur in a majority of our schools, each time we witness a tragedy like Jonesboro or Littleton, it makes us wonder if the next incident will be in our own home towns.

This is a very complex problem and there is no one single answer. It will take more than metal detectors and surveillance cameras to prevent the tragedies occurring in our schools. I believe the Safe Schools Act reflects the needs and wishes of students, parents, teachers and school administrators.

Unfortunately, there are not nearly enough mental health professionals working in our nation's schools. The American School Health Association recommends that the student-to-counselor ratio be 250:1. In secondary schools, the current ratio is 513:1. In elementary schools, the student-to-teacher ratio exceeds 1000:1.

Students today bring more to school than backpacks and lunchboxes—many of them bring severe emotional troubles. It is critical that schools be able to help our troubled students by teaching children new skills to cope with their aggression.

So, I commend the AMA Alliance for designating today as National SAVE Schools from Violence Day and encourage students, teachers, parents and the community to work together to make our schools safe.●

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT 106-14

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Injunction of Secrecy be removed from the following conven-

tion transmitted to the Senate on October 13, 1999 by the President of the United States:

Food Aid Convention 1999, Treaty Document 106-14.

I further ask that the convention be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Food Aid Convention 1999, which was open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from May 1 through June 30, 1999. The Convention was signed by the United States June 16, 1999. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

The Food Aid Convention 1999 replaces the Food Aid Convention 1995. Donor members continue to make minimum annual commitments that can be expressed either in the quantity or, under the new Convention, the value of the food aid they will provide to developing countries.

As the United States has done in the past, it is participating provisionally in the Food Aid Committee. The Committee granted the United States (and other countries) a 1-year extension of time, until June 30, 2000, in which to deposit its instrument of ratification.

It is my hope that the Senate will give prompt and favorable consideration to this Convention, and give its advice and consent to ratification by the United States at the earliest possible date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 13, 1999.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1000

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to H.R. 1000, FAA reauthorization, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL) appointed, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. KERRY, and for the consideration of title IX of the bill, from the Committee on the Budget, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. CONRAD conferees on the part of the Senate.

CONVEYING CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM THE UNITED STATES TO STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 356, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 356) to provide conveyance of certain property from the United States to Stanislaus County, California.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 356) was read the third time and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF JOHN E. COOK

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 202, submitted earlier today by Senator DOMENICI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 202) recognizing the distinguished service of John E. Cook of Williams, Arizona.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is my honor today to introduce a Senate resolution honoring a wonderful man and public servant, John E. Cook. The National Park Service recently celebrated its 83rd birthday, and for more than half that time—43 years—John served the Service with distinction, grit and integrity.

John E. Cook most recently served as Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, which stretches from Canada to Mexico and covers eight states, including Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. There he oversaw 87 diverse park units, including national parks, national monuments, national preserves, and national recreation areas. Since I have been a Senator from New Mexico, John and I have worked on various, and sometimes contentious, park issues. I have always appreciated our relationship, and his frankness and competence in dealing with issues.

Anyone who knows John would agree he is a great guy. Before starting his work for the National Park Service, he worked as a farm and ranch hand—and I've even heard a few good stories from his days as a rodeo cowboy. John began his Park Service career as a mule skinner at what is now Saguaro National

Park, and he has worked as a fire fighter, laborer, ranger, superintendent, and regional director throughout the western United States.

In addition to being a strong manager of people and parks, linking cultural and natural resource management, John has worked diligently to promote understanding of American Indians. Former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall appointed John superintendent at Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona partially because he speaks Navajo. He has received awards for his work in parks around the Navajo Nation, and has taught other park staff on American Indians' connection to lands that are now national parks.

The National Park Service owes John Cook a debt of gratitude, and the many honors he has received in his service will not repay what he has done for the parks of the west. I only hope that he will enjoy his extra free time to get in some hunting—a passion both he and I enjoy. I am pleased to offer this resolution, and I thank my colleagues for joining me in honoring this fine man.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 202) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 202

Whereas John E. Cook has recently retired from the National Park Service after 43 years of distinguished service to the United States and the people of the western region of the Nation;

Whereas John E. Cook most recently served 87 park units in 8 western States, stretching from the Canadian border to Mexico, as Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service;

Whereas John E. Cook is in the third of 4 generations from the Cook family who have served the National Park Service with enthusiasm and dedication;

Whereas John E. Cook's father, John O. Cook, and his grandfather, John E. Cook, served the National Park Service in the southwestern region, and his daughter Kayci

Cook, currently serves as superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore;

Whereas John E. Cook began his National Park Service career as a mule skinner at what is now Saguaro National Park;

Whereas John E. Cook, who is of Cherokee descent, speaks Navajo, and has worked diligently to promote Native American understanding;

Whereas John E. Cook has held 4 regional directorships, 1 deputy regional directorship, and 5 superintendencies within the National Park Service, and has proven to be a strong manager of people and parks, linking cultural and natural resource management; and

Whereas the citizens of the United States and the National Park Service owe John E. Cook a debt of gratitude and wish to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates John E. Cook for 43 years of service to the National Park Service;

(2) acknowledges the admiration and affection that John E. Cook's friends share for him; and

(3) recognizes the pride and high standard of workmanship exhibited by John E. Cook for 43 years.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1999

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 14. I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin 60 minutes of debate on the conference report to accompany the Defense appropriations bill, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will begin consideration of the Defense appropriations conference report at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. By previous consent, there will be 60 minutes of debate on the conference report, with a vote

scheduled to occur at 4 p.m. tomorrow. For the remainder of the day, the Senate will resume debate on the campaign finance reform bill. Amendments to the bill are expected to be offered, and therefore Senators may anticipate votes throughout the day. The Senate may also consider any other conference reports available for action.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 14, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate October 13, 1999:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MYRON G. ASHCRAFT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. NORTON A. SCHWARTZ, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. JOSEPH W. RALSTON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. RALPH E. EBERHART, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601 AND 154:

To be general

GEN. RICHARD B. MYERS, 0000