

new men to take the place of fallen soldiers. Training was cut. Physical standards were lowered. Many of these soldiers were only 18 or 19 years old. At the end of these forty-one days, over 80,000 American soldiers were maimed, captured, or killed. Nineteen thousand gave their lives to stave off the forces of tyranny.

They made sure that we could live in freedom today. I believe that Ronald Reagan put it well when he said, "If we look to the answer as to why for so many years we achieved so much, prospered as no other people of Earth, it was because here in this land we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man to a greater extent than has ever been done before. Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on Earth. The price for this freedom at times has been high. But we have never been unwilling to pay that price."

Mr. President, the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge bought with their lives a precious gift for all Americans—freedom. It is this gift that we must continually cherish.

We cannot forget these sons, husbands, and fathers who died for our great country. We cannot forget their families, who endured through days of worry and nights of grief. We cannot forget those men who were exposed to blistering cold, to unyielding enemy fire—to this unimaginable nightmare.

For those who died at Ardennes—for those who were massacred at Malmedy—for those who won at Bastogne, we must remember their sacrifices. There is no more appropriate time than now, for the Senate and the Congress to honor those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 65) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 351, S. Res. 204.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 204) designating the week beginning November 21, 1999, and the week beginning November 19, 2000, as "National Family Week," and for other purposes.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 204) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 204

Whereas the family is the basic strength of any free and orderly society;

Whereas it is in the family that America's youth are nurtured and taught the values vital to success and happiness in life: respect for others, honesty, service, hard work, loyalty, love, and others;

Whereas the family provides the support necessary for people to pursue their goals;

Whereas it is appropriate to honor the family unit as essential to the continued well-being of the United States; and

Whereas it is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of family loyalties and ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week beginning on November 21, 1999, and the week beginning on November 19, 2000, as "National Family Week". The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 200.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 200) designating the week of February 14-20 as "National Biotechnology Week."

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

(The parts of the resolution intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the resolution intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

Whereas biotechnology is increasingly important to the research and development of medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental products;

Whereas biotechnology has been responsible for breakthroughs and achievements which have benefited people for centuries and, in the 20th century, has contributed to increasing the lifespan of Americans by 25 years through the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs;

Whereas biotechnology is central to research for cures to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart and lung disease, Alzheimer's disease, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and innumerable other medical ailments;

Whereas biotechnology contributes to crop yields and farm productivity and enhances the quality, value, and suitability of crops

for food and other uses which are critical to America's agricultural system;

Whereas biotechnology promises environmental benefits including protection of water quality, conservation of topsoil, improvement of waste management techniques, and reduction of chemical pesticide usage;

Whereas biotechnology contributes to the success of the United States in international commerce and trade;

Whereas biotechnology will be an important catalyst for creating jobs in the 21st century; and

Whereas it is important for all Americans to understand the role biotechnology contributes to their quality of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates [the week of February 14-20] *January* of the year 2000 as "National Biotechnology [Week] *Month*"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe this [week] *month* with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution designating January 2000 as 'National Biotechnology Month'."

AMENDMENT NO. 2792

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Senator GRAMS has an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for Mr. GRAMS, proposes an amendment numbered 2792.

The amendment is as follows:

In the heading of S. Res. 200: strike "the week of February 14-20" and insert "January 2000;" strike the word "week" and insert "Month."

In the title of S. Res. 200: strike "the week of February 14-20" and insert "January 2000;" strike the word "week" and insert "Month."

On page 2 line 2 strike "the week of February 14-20" and insert "January."

On page 2, line 3, strike "Week" and insert "Month."

On page 2, line 7, strike the word "week" and insert "month."

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 2792) was agreed to.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the title amendment be agreed to, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 200), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.]

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution designating January 2000 as 'National Biotechnology Month'."

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL
DAY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 388, S. Res. 118.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 118) designating December 12, 1999, as "National Children's Memorial Day."

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 118) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 118

Whereas approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

Whereas the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be 1 of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime; and

Whereas a supportive environment and empathy and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY.

The Senate—

(1) designates December 12, 1999, as "National Children's Memorial Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I also note that the Senator from Nevada is the chief sponsor of this resolution designating December 12 as "National Children's Memorial Day." I wanted to recognize his efforts.

DESIGNATING A DAY TO "GIVE THANKS, GIVE LIFE"

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from consideration of S. Res. 225 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 225) to designate November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day to "Give Thanks, Give Life" and to discuss

organ and tissue donation with other family members.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to join with my distinguished colleagues, Senators FRIST, DEWINE, KENNEDY, LEVIN and others in supporting the passage of Senate Resolution 225, which designates November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day for families to discuss organ and tissue donation with other family members and to Give Thanks, Give Life. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage discussions concerning family members' intentions to donate their organs so that informed decisions can be made if the occasion to donate arises.

As we prepare to recess for the Thanksgiving holiday, we are all aware that this is one of the few times throughout the year for families to take time out of their busy lives to come together and give thanks for the many blessings in their lives. This occasion presents an ideal opportunity for family members to have frank discussions about their intentions on the issue of organ and tissue donation. This is a discussion about life and sharing the gift of life and fits perfectly with the theme of Thanksgiving Day. Although family members may have already designated themselves as organ donors on their driver's license or voter registration, that step does not ensure donation will take place since the final decision on whether a potential donor will share the gift of life is usually made by surviving family members regardless of their loved one's initial intent.

There are approximately 21,000 men, women, and children in the United States who receive the gift of life each year through transplantation surgery made possible by the generosity of organ and tissue donors. This is only a small proportion of the more than 66,000 Americans who are on the waiting list, hoping for their chance to prolong their lives by finding a matching donor. Tragically, nearly 5,000 of these patients each year, or 13 patients each day, die while waiting for a donated heart, liver, kidney, or other organ.

In order to narrow the gap between the supply and the increasing demand for donated organs, we must step up our effort to encourage willing donors to make their desire to donate clear to the only people usually able to make the decision if the occasion should arise—their immediate family members. Although there are up to 15,000 potential donors annually, families' consent to donation is received for less than 6,000 donors. As the demand for transplantation increases due to prolonged life expectancy and increased prevalence of diseases that lead to organ damage and failure, including hypertension, alcoholism, and hepatitis C infection, this shortfall will become even more pronounced. Additionally, the need for a more diverse donor pool, including a variety of racial and ethnic

minorities, will also continue to grow with the predicted population trends.

Many Americans will spend part of the Thanksgiving Day with some of those family members who would be most likely approached to make the important decision of whether or not to donate. Therefore, this would be a good time for families to spend a portion of that day discussing how they might give life to others on a day devoted to giving thanks for their own blessings. Open family discussions on this topic on a day of relaxation and family togetherness will increase awareness of the intentions of those willing to make the courageous and selfless decision to be organ donors, leading to more lifesaving transplants in the future. Designation of November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day for families to Give Thanks, Give Life is an important next step to promoting the dialogue between willing donors and their families, so that family members will know their loved ones' wishes long before the issue arises.

We have received a great outpouring of support for this resolution from many of the national organ and tissue donation organizations, including the American Heart Association, American Kidney Fund, American Liver Foundation, American Lung Association, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Thoracic Society, Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, Coalition on Donation, Eye Bank Association of America, James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness, National Kidney Foundation, National Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP), Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO), United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), and the Wendy Marks Foundation for Organ Donor Awareness. The tireless efforts of these groups and others have been critical in increasing donor awareness and education of the public on this extremely important cause. Their willingness to become involved with the Give Thanks, Give Life resolution and to provide their expertise in the development and implementation of a national campaign targeted at Thanksgiving 2000 will be invaluable in making this a national event with far-reaching effects.

The adoption of this resolution is a small victory for the organ donation awareness cause, but we must not forget the many casualties who have died awaiting a donated organ. One tragic loss that so many of us can relate to is the recent death of Walter Payton, an American hero. He contracted a rare liver disease that is often cured if the patient can receive a liver transplant. In Payton's case, the risk of deadly complications grew too quickly for him to be saved. He likely would have had to wait for years for his life-saving organ. The prevention of deaths like that of this great man and of so many other silent heroes is why our efforts in this life-saving cause must continue. A