

rest assured that the United States Navy is on watch, ever vigilant, and ready to respond;

Whereas, for the past 225 years, Navy men and women, as both ambassadors and warriors, have won extraordinary distinction and respect for the Nation and its Navy on the high seas, among the ocean depths, on distant shores, and in the skies above;

Whereas the core values of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment" are the guides by which United States sailors live and serve;

Whereas the United States Navy today is the most capable, most respected, and most effective sea service in the world;

Whereas 75 percent of the land masses in the world are bounded by water and 75 percent of the population of the world lives within 100 miles of the sea, assuring that our Naval forces will continue to be called upon to respond to emerging crises, to maintain freedom of the sea, to deter would-be aggressors, and to provide our allies with a visible reassurance of the support of the United States of America; and

Whereas, no matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, the Nation can rely on its Navy to produce well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated sailors to carry out the missions entrusted to them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 225th birthday of the United States Navy;

(2) expresses the appreciation of the people of the United States to the Navy, and the men and women who have served in the Navy, for 225 years of dedicated service;

(3) honors the courage, commitment, and sacrifice that Americans have made throughout the history of the Navy; and

(4) gives special thanks to the extended Navy family of civilians, family members, and loved ones who have served and supported the Navy for the past 225 years.

SENATE RESOLUTION 374—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 17, 2000, AS A "DAY OF NATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUN VIOLENCE"

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 374

Whereas young people are our Nation's most important resource, and we, as a society, have a vested interest in enabling children to grow in an environment free from fear and violence;

Whereas young people can, by taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions, and by positively influencing the decisions and actions of others, help chart a new and less violent direction for the entire Nation;

Whereas students in every school district in the Nation will be invited to take part in a day of nationwide observance involving millions of their fellow students, and will thereby be empowered to see themselves as significant agents in a wave of positive social change; and

Whereas the observance of October 17, 2000, as a "Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence" will allow students to make a positive and earnest decision about their future in that such students will have the opportunity to voluntarily sign the "Student Pledge Against Gun Violence", and promise that they will never take a gun to school, will never use a gun to settle a dispute, and will actively use their influence in

a positive manner to prevent friends from using guns to settle disputes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 17, 2000, as a "Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the school children of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 375—SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF BOLIVIA'S DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. GRAMHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 375

Whereas the stability of democracy in Latin America and the eradication of illegal narcotics from the Andean nations are vital national security interests of the United States;

Whereas the democratically elected Government of Bolivia has taken dramatic steps to eradicate illegal narcotics under the Dignity Plan, resulting in the elimination of 80 percent of the illegal coca crop in just two years, a record of achievement unmatched worldwide;

Whereas the Government of Bolivia is now approaching the completion of coca eradication in the Chapare and will begin eradication operations in the Yungas regions in 2002;

Whereas there are indications that narcotics traffickers from outside Bolivia are stepping up efforts to keep a foothold in Bolivia by agitating among the rural poor and indigenous populations, creating civil disturbances, blockading roads, organizing strikes and protests, and taking actions designed to force the Government of Bolivia to abandon its aggressive counter narcotics campaign; and

Whereas the government of Bolivian President Hugo Banzer Suarez has shown remarkable restraint in dealing with the protesters through dialogue and openness while respecting human rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That (a) the Senate calls upon the Government of Bolivia to continue its successful program of coca eradication and looks forward to the Government of Bolivia achieving its commitment to the total eradication of illegal coca in Bolivia by the end of 2002.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States, as a full partner in Bolivia's efforts to build democracy, to eradicate illegal narcotics, and to reduce poverty through development and economic growth, should fully support the democratically elected Government of Bolivia;

(2) the release of emergency supplemental assistance already approved by the United States for sustainable development activities in Bolivia should be accelerated;

(3) on a priority basis, the President should look for additional ways to provide increased tangible support to the people and Government of Bolivia;

(4) the Government of Bolivia should continue to respect the human rights of all of its citizens and to continue to discuss legitimate concerns of Bolivia's rural population; and

(5) Indigenous leaders should enter into serious discussions with the government on issues of concern and cease provocative acts that could lead to escalating violence.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a resolution in support of democracy and drug eradication in Bolivia. I'm pleased that I have been joined by several colleagues in a bipartisan initiative to applaud and support one of the most successful drug-eradication programs in the world.

Our resolution recognizes that extraordinary achievements of Bolivia's narcotics elimination program. It urges the Government of Bolivia to continue its program of drug elimination while upholding the rule of law and safeguarding human rights. It also urges the indigenous leaders to cease provocative acts and begin discussions with the Government of Bolivia to resolve outstanding issues.

For nearly two weeks now, Bolivia has been confronting one of the worst social upheavals the country has endured in the past two decades. The turmoil has been perpetrated by diverse forces in Bolivia, particularly those who wish to reverse the drug eradication program in the country.

A destabilization campaign, initiated by drug traffickers, has resulted in a number of protests that have virtually paralyzed the country. Roads that connect the major cities of the country were destroyed and blockaded and the flow of food to the urban centers has been interrupted. Nearly a dozen people have died and more have been injured by acts of violence. Economic losses are estimated at more than \$160 million and growing.

The protesters, who are led by coca growers, were demanding the resignation of the President, the suspension of the anti-drug strategy, and the elimination of plans to build a U.S. funded military installation in the Chapare region—the region where most illegal coca has been cultivated. They also demand that the Government allow peasants of the Chapare to replant about 6,000 hectares of coca, which, if that is allowed to happen, would yield roughly 42 tons of cocaine.

President Banzer has flatly rejected most demands to changes in the Bolivian drug strategy, the Dignity Plan. He has, nevertheless, agreed to suspend plans for the construction of a new military installation in the Chapare and proposed to refurbish the existing installation instead.

Other groups in Bolivia have added a number of unrelated demands which appeared to be coordinated by or to be in concert with the coca leaders. Teachers, for example, have demanded pay raises, inmates have asked for better jail conditions, peasants demanded a modification of laws on land ownership, doctors requested better pay, and agitators exploited the current state of affairs to amplify racial division. Isolated by themselves, these may be reasonable requests but when they are raised or orchestrated by drug traffickers, the goals become more malevolent.

The protesters formed a coordinated block with the intent to make the government deal with all the demands together, in the form of a comprehensive package.

There is little doubt that the largest risk for the country lies with the "cocacero" movement—the peasant coca growers—that is supported by regional drug trafficking interests. The drug traffickers are embarking on a desperate effort to reverse the anti-drug plan being waged by the Bolivian Government and turn back the remarkable progress in drug eradication that has been accomplished in the past few years.

Coca leaders and the drug traffickers are aware that their leadership and the ill-gotten riches they derive from illegal narcotics will end if the final 1,800 hectares of coca in the Chapare are destroyed. This helps explain the intransigence of its leaders. During this crisis, the government has demonstrated a steady dedication to seek agreements through dialogue while retaining a respect for human rights.

It is important to keep in mind that the current turmoil in Bolivia is occurring at a time when Bolivia is set to complete its program of coca eradication while simultaneously facing a serious economic crisis. Of the 40,000 hectares which have been used for the cultivation of coca, only 1,800 hectares remain.

The Bolivian economy have taken a big hit from its effort to combat drug trafficking. The fight against drug trafficking alone has resulted in the loss of 3% of Bolivia's GDP. The fight against contraband and customs reforms have absorbed another 3% of the GDP of Bolivia. This is all the more remarkable because this plan to eradicate drugs has taken place in a country where 7 out of 10 Bolivians live on \$2 a day, an income which is very much below the poverty line.

For these and other reasons, the Government of Bolivia has called on the international community to do everything possible to ensure that the hard won efforts in the fight against drug trafficking are not turned back.

Mr. President, let me conclude by saying that our resolution congratulates the Government of Bolivia for its successful drug elimination program and urges the government to continue its commitment to eradicate illegal coca by the end of 2002. It applauds the government's efforts to pursue its anti-narcotics strategy and urges the government to do what it can to uphold the rule of law and democratic practices, despite the strains the drug traffickers have imposed on the government. The resolution also stresses the view that human rights must continue to be safeguarded and urges the indigenous leaders to terminate provocative acts and negotiate the outstanding issues with the government of Bolivia.

I urge our colleagues to take note of the successful drug eradication program in Bolivia and encourage the

democratically-elected government in La Paz to sustain its commitment for total coca eradication by the end of next year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 376—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT THE JASPER FIRE IN THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 376

Whereas the Jasper Fire started at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2000, near Jasper Cave in the Black Hills National Forest and was contained at 6:00 p.m. on September 8, 2000;

Whereas two days after it started, the Jasper Fire nearly quadrupled in size in a matter of hours, burned as fast as 100 acres per second, and ultimately became the worst forest fire in the history of the Black Hills, consuming 83,508 acres;

Whereas the Jasper Fire threatened private homes in the Black Hills, including the South Dakota communities of Deerfield, Custer, and Hill City, Jewel Cave National Monument, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and forced the evacuation of many residents in northwestern Custer County and southwestern Pennington County;

Whereas volunteers from 76 community fire departments from across South Dakota made up a substantial part of the 1,160 men and women who worked around the clock to contain the Jasper Fire;

Whereas the Tatanka Hotshot crew, an elite 20-person firefighting team based in the Black Hills, came from fighting fires in western Wyoming to help fight the Jasper Fire;

Whereas while the Tatanka Hotshot crew has fought several fires throughout the country, the Jasper Fire was the first major fire they fought in their home forest;

Whereas the outpouring of support for the firefighters by local residents and communities, such as Hill City and Custer, helped boost firefighter morale; and

Whereas, in spite of the rugged terrain and the intense speed and size of the fire, the Jasper Fire was contained successfully with only one home lost and with no injuries to any firefighters or local citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Jasper Fire was the largest forest fire in the history of the Black Hills National Forest, consuming 83,508 acres;

(2) the volunteer firefighters from across South Dakota played a crucial role in combating the Jasper Fire and preventing it from destroying hundreds of homes;

(3) the Tatanka Hotshot crew was instrumental in providing the effort, expertise and training necessary to establish a fire line around the Jasper Fire; and

(4) the men and women who fought the Jasper Fire are commended for their bravery, their extraordinary efforts to contain the fire, and their commitment to protect lives, property, and the surrounding communities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

BOND (AND MIKULSKI)
AMENDMENT NO. 4306

Mr. BOND (for himself, and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

DIVISION A

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61); pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 92 Stat. 2508); and burial benefits, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of Article IV of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, and for other benefits as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 50 U.S.C. App. 540–548; 43 Stat. 122, 123; 45 Stat. 735; 76 Stat. 1198), \$22,766,276,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not to exceed \$17,419,000 of the amount appropriated shall be reimbursed to "General operating expenses" and "Medical care" for necessary expenses in implementing those provisions authorized in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, and in the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. chapters 51, 53, and 55), the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and pensions" appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical facilities revolving fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapters 21, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61, \$1,634,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, other than under subsection (a)(1), (2), (5) and (11) of that section, shall be charged to the account: Provided further, That funds