

sentence include, but are not limited to, the following:

“(1) Presenting measures of the long-term sustainability of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program established under this title with an emphasis equal to actuarial solvency, by highlighting the program’s projected annual income rates, cost rates, and annual balances throughout the 75-year valuation window used by the Board of Trustees.

“(2) Presenting a clear and explicit projection of such program’s unfunded liabilities.

“(3) Presenting benefit levels and tax rates throughout the long-range valuation period that reflect the estimates included in the report of the Board of Trustees of the Trust Funds regarding the percentage of benefits that can be funded under currently projected program revenues, and the percentage that taxes would need to be increased in order to fund promised benefits.”.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.—Section 704 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“Annual Report to Congress

“(f) The Commissioner shall submit an annual report to Congress that includes the following:

“(1) An evaluation, determined in conjunction with the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, on the effects upon national savings levels and on the fiscal operations of the Federal Government of enacted provisions of law relating to the Federal old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits program established under title II.

“(2) Estimates of average lifetime values of benefits for different age, income, and gender cohorts, respectively, for recipients of old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits under such program, that are consistent with the estimates of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the percentage of benefits that can be funded under such enacted provisions of law.”.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to reports made for calendar years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should not miss a critical opportunity to enact comprehensive bipartisan social security reform legislation that meets the standard of 75-year actuarial solvency and also addresses the following issues:

(1) The permanent sustainability of the social security program.

(2) The long-term impact of reform upon the fiscal operations of the Federal Government as a whole.

(3) The need for a clear and explicit presentation of the anticipated reduction in the social security program’s unfunded liabilities.

(4) Ensured continued solvency under alternative assumptions regarding mortality, fertility, rates of return, and other appropriate economic and demographic assumptions.

(5) The total amount of retirement income provided under proposed reform in comparison to a standard that explicitly recognizes the benefit reductions or tax increases that enacted provisions of law relating to the social security program would require, according to the estimates in the most recent report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund

and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

(6) The long-term impact of the current projections of insolvency and of alternative reform proposals upon workforce participation, poverty among the elderly, national savings levels, and other issues identified by the Panel.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the recommendations of the Panel should be implemented to the extent deemed reasonable by the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, in consultation with the agencies and offices that have research, estimating, and reporting responsibilities pertinent to the social security program.

AMENDMENT NO.—

(Purpose: To redesignate the term for the age at which an individual is eligible for old-age benefits)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ . REDESIGNATION OF TERM FOR AGE AT WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR OLD-AGE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking “retirement age” each place it appears and inserting “the age of eligibility for old-age benefits”;

(2) by striking “early retirement age” each place it appears and inserting “the age of early eligibility for old-age benefits”;

(3) by striking “delayed retirement” each place it appears and inserting “delayed exercise of eligibility for old-age benefits”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 202(q)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(q)(9)) is amended by striking “early retirement” and inserting “early eligibility for old-age benefits”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, it is the leader’s understanding that these are the amendments that will be offered on Tuesday, unless technical changes are required which would be cleared by the Finance chairman and ranking member.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 435, S. Res. 251.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 251) designating March 25, 2000, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.”

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

Mr. GRAMS. 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. 251) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 251

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of the only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas the heroism displayed in the historic World War II Battle of Crete epitomized Greece’s sacrifice for freedom and democracy as it presented the Axis land war with its first major setback and set off a chain of events which significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas President Clinton, during his visit to Greece on November 20, 1999, referred to modern day Greece as “a beacon of democracy, a regional leader for stability, prosperity and freedom, helping to complete the democratic revolution that ancient Greece began”;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2000, marks the 179th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2000, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy”;

and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

NATIONAL GIRL SCOUT WEEK

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 273, submitted earlier by Senator HUTCHISON of Texas.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 273) designating the week beginning March 11, 2000, as “National Girl Scout Week.”

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, this year commemorates the 88th anniversary of the founding of this outstanding organization and designates the week of March 11, 2000 as National

Girl Scout week. I am joined in supporting this resolution by Senator MIKULSKI and Senator HATCH.

On March 16, 1950, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America became the first national organization for girls to be granted a Federal charter by Congress.

The Girl Scout Organization has long been dedicated to inspiring girls and young women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and service to others to that they may become model citizens in their communities. It is not easy growing up, particularly in today's society. The Girl Scouts is one organization that has consistently guided young women in their formative years.

For 88 years, the Girl Scout movement has provided valuable leadership skills for countless girls and young women across the nation. Today, overall membership in the Girl Scouts is the highest it has been in 26 years, with 2.7 million girls and over 850,000 adult volunteers. I am proud to say that I, too, was a Girl Scout.

I am pleased to be joined by Senator MIKULSKI in support of this legislation which designates the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week." I ask our colleagues to join us.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. on the occasion of the 88th anniversary of its founding. To honor an organization that gives back so much to our communities, Congress has established March 12–18 as National Girl Scout Week.

Created in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Law, the first Girl Scout group consisted of only 18 girls. Since then, the Girl Scouts have evolved into the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world. Nearly 3.5 million active members strive toward excellence in character, conduct, patriotism and service—attributes that are vital to a young person's development. The Girl Scouts have given direction to over 40 million American women throughout its rich 86-year history.

Girl Scouting empowers young women from every background with the tools they will need to be the outstanding leaders of the future. For example, we all know about those famous Girl Scout cookies. I have certainly enjoyed my fair share. Through their annual cookie sales, girls learn valuable life lessons in goal setting, money management, and community involvement.

Of course, there is much more to scouting than the sale of cookies, such as the organization's long tradition of serving others without the expectation of reward. Girls are encouraged to incorporate service into their lives, whether it takes the form of common, everyday acts around the house or community service work outside the home. Instilled with compassion for others, Girl Scouts head into the world as caring, valuable members of society.

Additionally, I take this opportunity to commend the 850,000 adult volun-

teers who serve as leaders for the Girl Scouts. Their devotion to providing opportunities for girls to meet their potential is unparalleled. In my home state of Minnesota, nearly 20,000 volunteers devote their time and energy to over 60,000 Girl Scouts. Clearly, without these dedicated volunteers, the Girl Scouts would not provide the effective leadership it offers today.

For 88 years, the members and adult volunteers of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have worked tirelessly for the betterment of this nation. I congratulate them on their achievements and wish for them a prosperous future as the Girl Scouts continue to nurture the lives of America's young women.

Mr. GRAMS. 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. 273) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 273

Whereas March 12, 2000, is the 88th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America;

Whereas on March 16, 1950, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America became the first national organization for girls to be granted a Federal charter by Congress;

Whereas through annual reports required to be submitted to Congress by its charter, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America regularly informs Congress of its progress and program initiatives;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America is dedicated to inspiring girls and young women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and service to others so that they may become model citizens in their communities;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America offers girls aged 5 through 17 a variety of opportunities to develop strong values and life skills and provides a wide range of activities to meet girls' interests and needs;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has a membership of nearly 3,000,000 girls and over 900,000 adult volunteers, and is one of the preeminent organizations in the United States committed to girls growing strong in mind, body, and spirit; and

Whereas by fostering in girls and young women the qualities on which the strength of the United States depends, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, for 88 years, has significantly contributed to the advancement of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week"; and
(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

RESOLUTION INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. RES. 270

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Resolution 270 be indefinitely postponed.

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

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 440, S. 1653.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1653) to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate today has unanimously passed S. 1653, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Committee on Environment and Public Works, which I chair, reported this bill, again unanimously, last month. At that time, I noted how important it was to get the local communities and businesses involved in protecting the environment.

The Foundation was created in 1984 because Congress saw the need to create a private, nonprofit organization that could build public-private partnerships and consensus, where previously there had only been acrimony and, many times, contentious litigation. It was also envisioned that the Foundation would serve as an important tool in our effort to make a difference on the ground in communities throughout the United States. In its 16 years of existence the Foundation has more than lived up to our original expectations.

We have long known that the Federal government does not have all the financial resources necessary to solve the numerous environmental problems that exist in our country. We also know that local communities care and know more about their natural environment than the agencies in Washington, D.C. More often than not local communities recognize problems before they become environmental disasters that require significant amounts of money to resolve, if they can even be resolved. In order to ensure that the funds are available to local communities the Foundation has established something called "challenge grants."

"Challenge grants" are a mixture of federal and non-federal funds directed to on-the-ground conservation projects. They are called "challenge grants" because any grant awarded is expected to be matched by non-federal dollars. During this time of fiscal constraint, it is important to use all available resources to help us protect the environment. Local communities, states, individuals, nonprofit organizations and