

oak tree as the national tree of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the oak tree as an official national emblem. This day bears especially great significance for me as a United States Senator from Nebraska, since Arbor Day was first celebrated in our great state.

The original seed of this day was planted in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, a newspaper executive and an environmentalist ahead of his time. Mr. Morton moved from Michigan to Nebraska City, where he discovered a tree-less prairie. In effort to bring some shade to the state, he collaborated with Robert Furnas to promote the idea of a statewide holiday dedicated to tree planting.

Mr. Morton authored many articles on the benefits of trees as he garnered support for the idea of an Arbor Day. He also became active in Nebraska Territory politics, where he continued to voice his aspiration for a forested prairie. While Morton is revered as the Father of Arbor Day, it was then-Governor Furnas who made the observance official in 1874 with the first proclamation designating Arbor Day in Nebraska.

Since then, with the exception of one year, Nebraskans have celebrated Arbor Day with pride. The one million trees that were said to have been planted on the very first Arbor Day—not to mention all the ones since—have had a tremendous impact on the landscape and on the lives of Nebraskans. The influence of that first observance has continued as each year, during planting season, people from around the globe observe the Nebraska-born tradition of Arbor Day.

Considering the historical significance of Arbor Day to Nebraska, I am proud to sponsor this legislation to designate the oak tree, selected by Americans in a nationwide vote, as an official emblem of the United States. By formally designating a national tree, we honor the past and plant hope for an even greener future.

After all, an oak tree is an appropriate metaphor for the history of our country. The United States has grown from the acorn of colonialism into a strong, branching entity. Like a maturing oak, our roots are deepening, and with each passing year, our core strengthens.

J. Sterling Morton, as he expounded on the indifference of trees to their worldly surroundings, once wrote, "There is no aristocracy in trees." To his sentiment, I would add that, "Instead, there is only the humble root of democracy." The oak, the symbol of our democracy, will always serve as reminder of the vitality and strength that permeates our national—as well as natural—history.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator MIKE CRAPO for cosponsoring this legislation and for his support of this

effort. I also want to commend each of the voters who participated in the selection process, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The involvement of these American citizens has made this legislation possible.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator BEN NELSON in introducing legislation to designate the oak tree as America's National Tree.

I am pleased to support an effort that recognizes the importance of trees in our lives and our nation's heritage. Trees provide a number of societal benefits and, as a renewable resource, can provide these benefits generation after generation when properly managed. From our nation's reliance on wood and wood products to the environmental benefits of cleaner air and water, trees are an integral part of our lives.

Trees produce oxygen, lower ambient air temperature, release moisture into the air, retain particulates, create habitat for wildlife, and store carbon-dioxide. Trees can produce wind breaks, provide shade, and stabilize soils. Trees provide a multitude of products that are used in our daily lives.

In a national effort that culminated in a nationwide vote, the public chose the oak tree as America's National Tree. I appreciate the public's involvement in this effort and recognize that the oak tree is America's most widespread hardwood. As an Idahoan, I am partial to Idaho's state tree, the White Pine, but support the people's choice. The "King of Trees" has long been valued for its shade, beauty, and lumber and is a fitting symbol of America's strength and diversity.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to support the public's choice for a national tree. I appreciate Senator NELSON's efforts to add a national tree to the list of national observances, which includes our national anthem, motto, floral emblem, and march.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 78—DESIGNATING MAY 2001, AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH"

Mr. CRAIG submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 78

Whereas older Americans are the foundation of our Nation;

Whereas the freedom and security our Nation now enjoys can be attributed to the service, hard work, and sacrifices of older Americans;

Whereas older Americans continue making significant contributions to our communities, workplaces, and homes by giving freely of themselves and by sharing their wisdom and experience through civic leadership and mentoring;

Whereas the older Americans of tomorrow will be more socially, ethnically, and eco-

nomically diverse than any past generation, which will impact upon our Nation's ideas of work, retirement and leisure, alter our housing and living arrangements, challenge our health care systems, and reshape our economy;

Whereas the opportunities and challenges that await our Nation require our Nation to continue to commit to the goal of ensuring that older Americans enjoy active, productive, and healthy lives, and do so independently, safely, and with dignity; and

Whereas it is appropriate for our Nation to continue the tradition of designating the month of May as a time to celebrate the contributions of older Americans and to rededicate our efforts to respect and better serve older Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2001, as "Older Americans Month";

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote acknowledgment, gratitude, and respect for older Americans.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring May as Older Americans' Month.

I am here today to celebrate May as Older Americans' Month. For 38 years May has been the official month during which we pay tribute to the contributions of our 44 million older Americans. It is during this month that we as a nation recognize older Americans for their service, hard work and sacrifice that helped assure us the freedom and security we now enjoy.

Not only should we take this time to show our appreciation and respect for America's seniors, but also to acknowledge that today's and tomorrow's seniors will continue making significant contributions to our communities through their wisdom and experience; in the workplace, in civic leadership and in our homes.

We must also recognize that 77 million baby boomers will soon be retiring and must begin to address some of the challenges this influx will bring. Social Security and Medicare modernization, including the option for prescription drugs, must be addressed before this generation retires.

As the new Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that await us as we continue our commitment to the goal of ensuring that senior citizens enjoy active, productive and healthy lives, and do so independently, safely and with dignity. This Committee is celebrating its own anniversary this year and I am proud to say that for 40 years, it has played a role in studying problems and opportunities related to older Americans.

In addition, this year I believe we have special reason to celebrate. Last year, Congress was able to pass the reauthorization of the Older Americans' Act. As you all know, this reauthorization was 5 years in the coming. I was an original cosponsor of legislation to update and amend the Act and strongly supported the legislative goal of making the programs and services under

the Act more responsive to the needs of America's seniors.

With this reauthorization Congress was able to add an important component to the Act. The program authorized \$125 million to establish a new National Family Caregiver Support Program to provide grants to states to provide information and services to family caregivers. Because of the importance of this program, the Special Committee on Aging will be holding a hearing May 17 to examine its implementation.

In the tradition of Older Americans' Month, I am introducing a resolution in the Senate calling on the people of the United States to observe the month of May 2001 as Older Americans' Month and to encourage all Americans to promote awareness through ceremonies, programs, and other activities that promote acknowledgment, gratitude, and respect for American seniors.

I ask all of you to celebrate with me Older Americans' Month this May.

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—DESIGNATING MAY 1, 2001, AS "NATIONAL CHILD CARE WORTHY WAGE DAY"

Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 79

Whereas approximately 13,000,000 children are in out-of-home care during part or all of the day so that their parents may work;

Whereas the average salary of early childhood educators is \$15,000 per year, and only 1/3 have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of child care and other early childhood education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators, and low wages make it difficult to attract qualified individuals to the profession;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood educators is approximately 30 percent per year because of low wages and lack of benefits, making it difficult to retain high quality educators, and research has demonstrated that young children require caring relationships to have a consistent presence in their lives for their positive development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood educators must be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the United States develop their social, emotional, physical, and intellectual skills to be ready for school;

Whereas the cost of adequate compensation cannot be funded by further burdening parents with higher child care fees but requires public as well as private resources so that quality care and education is accessible for all families; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce and other early childhood education organizations recognize May 1st as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 1, 2001, as "National Child Care Worthy Wage Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the

United States to observe "National Child Care Worthy Wage Day" by honoring early childhood educators and programs in their communities and by working together to resolve the early childhood educator compensation crisis.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting National Child Care Worthy Wage Day, which I hope will be giving attention to early childhood education and the importance of attracting and retaining qualified childcare workers.

Every day, approximately 13 million children are cared for outside the home so that their parents can work. This figure includes 6 million of our nation's infants and toddlers. Children begin to learn at birth, and the quality of care they receive will affect them for the rest of their lives. Early childcare affects language development, math skills, social behavior, and general readiness for school. Experienced childcare workers can identify children who have development or emotional problems and provide the care they need to take on life's challenges. Through the creative use of play, structured activities and individual attention, childcare workers help young children learn about the world around them and how to interact with others. They also teach the skills children will need to be ready to read and to learn when they go to school.

Unfortunately, despite the importance of their work, the committed individuals who nurture and teach our nation's young children are undervalued. The average salary of a childcare worker is about \$15,000 annually. In 1998, the middle 50 percent of child care workers and pre-school teachers earned between \$5.82 and \$8.13 an hour, according to the Department of labor. The lowest 10 percent of childcare workers were paid an hourly rate of \$5.49 or less. Only one third of our nation's childcare workers have health insurance and even fewer have pension plans. This grossly inadequate level of wages and benefits for childcare staff has led to difficulties in attracting and retaining high quality caretakers and educators. As a result, the turnover rate for childcare providers is 30 percent a year. This high turnover rate interrupts consistent and stable relationships that children need to have with their caregivers.

If we want our children cared for by qualified providers with higher degrees and more training, we will have to make sure they are adequately compensated. Otherwise, we will continue to lose early childhood educators with BA degrees to kindergarten and first grade, losing some of our best teachers of young children from the early years of learning.

In order to bring attention to childcare workers, I am sponsoring a resolution that would designate May 1st as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day. On May 1st each year, childcare providers and other early childhood professionals nationwide

conduct public awareness and education efforts highlighting the importance of good early childhood education.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of the work and professionalism that childcare workers provide and the need to increase their compensation accordingly. The nation's childcare workforce, the families who depend on them, and the children they care for, deserve our support.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 355. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 356. Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him by the bill S. 1 supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 355. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 521, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

SEC. 405. AMENDMENT TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Chapter 3—Improving Early Intervention, Educational, and Transitional Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Through the Provision of Certain Services

"SEC. 691. FINDINGS.

"Congress makes the following findings:

"(1) Approximately 1,000,000 children and youth in the United States have low-incidence disabilities which affects the hearing, vision, movement, emotional, and intellectual capabilities of such children and youth.

"(2) There are 15 States that do not offer or maintain teacher training programs for any of the 3 categories of low-incidence disabilities. The 3 categories are deafness, blindness, and severe disabilities.

"(3) There are 38 States in which teacher training programs are not offered or maintained for 1 or more of the 3 categories of low-incidence disabilities.

"(4) The University of Northern Colorado is in a unique position to provide expertise, materials, and equipment to other schools and educators across the nation to train current and future teachers to educate individuals that are challenged by low-incidence disabilities.

"SEC. 692. NATIONAL CENTER FOR LOW-INCIDENCE DISABILITIES.

"In order to fill the national need for teachers trained to educate children who are challenged with low-incidence disabilities, the University of Northern Colorado shall be designated as a National Center for Low-Incidence Disabilities.

"SEC. 693. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS.

"(a) GRANT.—The Secretary shall award a grant to the University of Northern Colorado