proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 74.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 20th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) was agreed to.

HONORING THE ''WHIDBEY 24''

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from consideration of S. Res. 80 and the Senate then 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. 80) honoring the ''Whidbey 24'' for their professionalism, bravery, and courage.

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 80) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 80

Whereas the Electronic Countermeasures Squadron One (VQ–1) at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station performs an electronic reconnaissance mission for the defense of our Nation;

Whereas on April 1, 2001, a VQ–1 EP–3E Aries II electronic surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet and made an emergency landing at the Chinese military airfield on Hainan Island;

Whereas the 24 crew members on board the plane (referred to in this resolution as the ''Whidbey 24'') displayed exemplary bravery and courage and the highest standards of professionalism in responding to the collision and during the ensuing 11 days in detention in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Navy Lieutenant, Shane J. Osborn, displayed courage and extraordinary skill by safely landing the badly damaged EP–3E; and

Whereas each member of the ''Whidbey 24'' embodies the selfless dedication it takes to defend our Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses relief at the release and safe return of the ''Whidbey 24'' and shares in their families' joy;

(2) applauds the selfless devotion to duty of the ''Whidbey 24'' who risked their lives to defend our Nation;

(3) praises the ''Whidbey 24'' for their professionalism and bravery and expresses the admiration and gratitude of our Nation; and

(4) acknowledges the sacrifices made every day by the members of our Nation's Armed Forces as they defend and preserve our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 86, submitted earlier by Senator BOND for himself and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 86) to express the sense of the Senate recognizing the important role played by the Small Business Administration on behalf of the United States small business community.

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

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as has been the tradition for the past 38 years, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of Small Business Week. Today, we are in the middle of Small Business Week 2001, which is being sponsored by the Small Business Administration. The purpose of this week's celebration is to honor over 25 million businesses that make up the U.S. small business community. It is very appropriate for us, today, to recognize the importance of America's small businesses, and the significant role played by the Small Business Administration, SBA, in our Nation's economic growth.

Congress established the SBA in 1953 to provide financial and management assistance to start-up and growing small businesses. Over the past 48 years, the success of SBA in meeting its missions is legend. It maintains a portfolio of guaranteed small business loans and disaster loans totaling more than $45 billion. And the Agency has guaranteed another $13 billion in venture capital investments to small businesses. To compliment it successful credit programs, the SBA's management assistance programs were delivered to more than one million small businesses during the past fiscal year.

Over the past decade of record economic growth and prosperity, U.S. small businesses have been the engine driving our economy. More than 99% of all employers in the United States are small businesses, providing nearly 75% of the net new jobs added to our workforce. Small businesses have proven, year-in and year-out, that they are a potent force in the economy, accounting for 51% of the private sector output. And their sights are not set just at home; leading the way toward a global economy, the small business community represents 96% of all U.S. exporters.

Over the past 6 years I have been the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, and I have witnessed the enormous potential of America's small businesses at work. They are flexible; they are creative; they give us jobs; they provide economic growth; and most importantly, they provide hope and a future for millions of families and communities across our great nation.

The resolution now before the Senate recognizes the critical role played by small businesses and the Small Business Administration in this business community. It is appropriate that we take a moment from our hectic lives to acknowledge the success of small businesses and to encourage our federal government to continue to provide its help to insure future successes.

I urge each of my colleagues to vote for the Small Business resolution as a way to thank the SBA and the small business community for its contributions to our Nation.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, this legislation reauthorizes the Small Business Administration's Small Business Technology Transfer Program. The STTR program funds cooperative R&D projects between small companies and research institutions as an incentive to advance the nation's technological progress. For those of us who were here when Congress created this program in 1992, we will remember that we were looking for ways to move research from the laboratories to market. What could we do to keep promising research from stagnating in Federal labs and research universities? Our research in this country is world renowned, so it wasn't a question of good science and engineering. We, without a doubt, have one of the finest university systems in the world, and we have outstanding research institutions. What we needed was more development, development of innovative technology. We needed a system that would take this research and find ways it could be applied to everyday life and national priorities. One such company is Sterling Semiconductor. Sterling, in conjunction with the University of Colorado, has developed silicon carbide wafers for use in semiconductors that can withstand extreme temperatures and conditions. In addition to defense applications, these wafers can be used for everything from traffic lights to automobile dashboards and communications equipment.

With technology transfer, it was not just the issue of the tenured professor who risked security if he or she left to try and commercialize their research; it was also an issue of creating businesses and jobs that maximized the contributions of our scientists and engineers once they graduated. There simply weren't enough opportunities at universities and labs for these bright individuals to do research and development. The answer was to encourage the creation of small businesses dedicated

to research, its development, and ultimately moving that research out of the lab and finding a commercial application.

We knew that the SBA's existing Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program had proven to be extremely successful over the previous ten years, so we established what is now known as the Small Business Technology Transfer program. The STTR program complements the SBIR program. Whereas the SBIR program funds R&D projects at small companies, STTR funds cooperative R&D projects between a small company and a research institution, such as a university or Federally funded R&D lab. The STTR program fosters development and commercialization of ideas that either originate at a research institution or require significant research institution involvement, such as expertise or facilities, for their successful development.

This has been a very successful program. One company, Cambridge Research Instruments of Woburn, Massachusetts, has been working on an STTR project with the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole. They have developed a liquid crystal-based polarized light microscope for structural imaging. While that is a mouthful, I'm told that it helps in manufacturing flat screen computer monitors, and even helps improve the in vitro fertilization procedure. Together this company and the lab expect to have sales in excess of $1 million dollars next year from this STTR project.

As this example illustrates, the STTR program serves an important purpose for this country's research and development, our small businesses, our economy, and our nation. The program is set to expire at midnight on Sunday, September 30th. By the way, we absolutely have no intention of letting reauthorization get down to the wire, which was the unfortunate fate of the reauthorization of the SBIR program last year. I have worked in partnership with Senator BOND to develop this legislation, and as part of the process we have consulted with and listened to our friends in the House, both on the Small Business Committee and the Science Committee. We do not see this legislation as contentious, and we have every intention of seeing this bill signed into law well before September.

Shaping this legislation has gone beyond policy makers; we have reached out to small companies that conduct the STTR projects and research universities and Federal labs. On my part, I sponsored two meetings in Massachusetts on March 16th to discuss the STTR program. At my office in Boston, there was a very helpful discussion with six of Massachusetts' research universities expressing what they like and dislike about the program, and why they use it, or don't use it more. The meeting included the licensing managers from Boston University, Harvard, MIT, Northeastern University, and the University of Massachusetts. They said they need to hear more about the STTR program and have more outreach to their scientists and engineers so that they understand when and how to apply for the program. Based on their suggestions, we've included an outreach mandate in our bill. In addition, we're trying to provide SBA with more resources in its Office of Technology to be responsive to the concerns of STTR institutions and small businesses.

Later that day, my office was part of a meeting in Newton at Innovative Training Systems in which about 20 leaders and representatives of small high-tech companies talked about the SBIR and STTR programs. They make a tremendous contribution to the economy and state of Massachusetts. They said that the Phase II award for STTR should be raised from $500,000 to $750,000 to be consistent with the SBIR program. Otherwise, since a minimum of 30 percent of the award goes to the university partner, it was too little money to really develop the research.

As I said, we listened to them. And we also listened to what the program managers of the participating agencies had to say. Agencies participate in this program if their extramural R&D budget is greater than $1 billion. Consequently, there are five eligible agencies: the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Science Foundation. For the STTR projects, they set aside .15 percent of their extramural R&D budget. That comes to about $65 million per year invested in these collaborations between small business and research institutions.

Combining all the suggestions for improvement, the STTR Program Reauthorization Act of 2001 does the following:

1. It reauthorizes the program for nine years, setting the expiration date for September 30th, 2010.

2. Starting in two years, FY2003, it raises in small increments the percentage that Departments and Agencies set aside for STTR R&D. In FY2004, the percentage increases from .15 percent to .3 percent. After three years, in FY2007, the bill raises the percentage from .3 percent to .5 percent.

3. Starting in two years, FY2003, the legislation raises the Phase II grant award amount from $500,000 to $750,000.

4. It requires the participating agencies to implement an outreach program to research institutions in conjunction with any such outreach done with the SBIR program.

5. As last year's legislation did for the SBIR program, this bill strengthens the data collection requirements regarding awards and the data rights for companies and research institutions that conduct STTR projects. The goal is to collect better information about the companies doing the projects, as well as the research and development, so that we can measure success and track technologies.

While I believe that these changes reflect common sense and are reasonable, I would like to discuss two of the proposed changes.

First, I would like to talk about reauthorizing the program for nine years. The STTR program was a pilot program when it was first enacted in 1992. Upon review in 1997, the results of the program were generally good and the program was reauthorized that year. A more recent review and study of the program shows that the program has become more successful as it has had more time to develop. Specifically, the commercialization rate of the research is higher than for most research and development expenditures. Further, universities and research institutions have developed excellent working relationships with small businesses, and the program has also had good geographic diversity, involving small companies and research institutions throughout the country. The nine-year reauthorization will allow the agencies, small businesses and universities to gradually ramp up to the higher percentage in a predictable and orderly manner.

Second, I would like to talk about the gradual, incremental increases in the percentages reserved for STTR contracts and the increase in the Phase II awards. When we reached out to the small businesses and the research institutions that conduct STTR projects, and the program managers of the five agencies that participate in the STTR program, we heard two recurring themes: one, raise the amount of the Phase II awards; and two, increase the amount of the percentage reserved for STTR projects.

Speaking to the first issue, we heard that the Phase II awards of $500,000 generally are not sufficient for the research and development projects and should be increased to $750,000, the same as the SBIR Phase II awards, to make the awards worth applying for the small businesses and research institutions.

As for the second issue, we were told that the percentage of .15 reserved for STTR awards needed to be increased in order to better meet the needs of the agencies. Last year, that .15 percent of the five agencies' extramural research and development budgets amounted to a total $65 million dollars available for small businesses and research institutions to further develop research and transfer technology from the lab to market through the STTR program. Less than a quarter of one percent to help strengthen this country's technological progress is not extravagant; in fact, it is not adequate support for this important segment of the economy.

Nevertheless, we are very conscientious about the needs of the departments and agencies to meet their missions for the nation and have proposed gradual increases that take into full consideration the realities of implementing the changes for the agencies

and departments that participate in the program. Consequently, the legislation does not increase the percentage for STTR awards until two full years after the program has been reauthorized.

We are also conscientious about the fact that we want more research, not less, so we have timed the increase of the Phase II awards to coincide with the initial percentage increase reserved for STTR projects.

Overall, we believe this gradual increase will help encourage more innovation and greater cooperation between research institutions and small businesses. As the program requires, at least 30 percent of these additional funds will go to university and research institutions. Not only do the universities and research institutions that collaborate with small businesses get 30 percent of the STTR award money for each contract, they also benefit in that they often receive license fees and royalties. We are also conscientious about being fiscally responsible, the percentage increases will have no budget implication since it does not increase the amount of the money spent. Rather, it ultimately, after six years, redirects one half of one percent to this very successful program which benefits the economy overall.

This bill will ensure that this successful program is continued and increased. It will also provide Congress with important information and data on the program and encourage more outreach to small businesses and research institutions.

Mr. President, I want to encourage my colleagues to learn about this program, to find out the benefits to their state's hi-tech small businesses and research universities and labs, and to join me in passing this legislation in the Senate as soon as possible. To my friend from Missouri, Senator BOND, I want to thank you and your staff for working with me and my staff to build this country's technological progress. I also want to thank all of the cosponsors: Senators CLELAND, LANDRIEU, BENNETT, LEVIN, LIEBERMAN, HARKIN, BINGAMAN, ENZI and CANTWELL.

Mr. President, I ask that my statement and a copy of the bill be included in the RECORD.

Mr. ENSIGN. 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. 86) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Submitted Resolutions.'')

COMMENDING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 81 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 81), commending the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China for their persistence, devotion to duty, sacrifice, and success in obtaining the safe repatriation to the United States of the crew of the Navy EP–3E ARIES II aircraft who had been detained in China.

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

Mr. ENSIGN. 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, finally, any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 81) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas, on March 31, 2001, two fighter aircraft of the People's Republic of China intercepted a United States Navy EP–3E ARIES II maritime patrol aircraft on a routine reconnaissance mission in international airspace over the China Sea;

Whereas one of the two Chinese aircraft collided with the United States aircraft, jeopardizing the lives of its 24 crewmembers, causing serious damage, and forcing the United States aircraft commander, Navy Lieutenant Shane Osborn, to issue a ''MAYDAY'' distress call and perform an emergency landing at a Chinese airfield on Hainan Island;

Whereas, in violation of international norms, the Government of the People's Republic of China detained the United States aircrew for 11 days, initially refusing the requests of United States consular and military officials for access to the crew; and

Whereas the persistence and devotion to duty of the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China resulted in the release of all members of the United States aircrew on April 12, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby commends the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China, and other responsible officials of the Departments of State and Defense, for their outstanding performance in obtaining the safe repatriation to the United States of the crew of the Navy EP–3E ARIES II aircraft.

PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 428 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 428) concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 647

Mr. ENSIGN. Senator HATCH has an amendment at the desk. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN], for Mr. HATCH, proposes an amendment numbered 647.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO).

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health.

(2) Direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria.

(3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is larger than that of ¾ of the member states already in the World Health Organization (WHO).

(4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and the first to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B vaccinations.

(5) The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues.

(6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the WHO.

(7) On January 14, 2001, an earthquake, registering between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale, struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese government sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated $200,000 in relief aid to the Salvadoran Government.

(8) The World Health Assembly has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950's.

(9) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations.

(10) Public Law 106–137 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Congress on efforts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the WHO.

(11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan's participation in the WHO can bring to the