

background check if the state fails to develop an adequate system.

This bill is important for the well-being of our children and is a proper use of Federal resources. The Congress should use all reasonable means to ensure that criminals do not have access to children, seniors, and the disabled. I am proud to support this legislation, and I am pleased that the Senate has approved these significant protections for the most vulnerable in our society.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senators BIDEN and THURMOND have an amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; the committee reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate, and that the title amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 4896) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1868), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF TAX DOLLARS ACT OF 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4685.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4685) to amend title 31, United States Code, to expand the types of Federal agencies that are required to prepare audited financial statements.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4685) was read the third time and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A DAY OF TRIBUTE TO ALL FIRE- FIGHTERS AND THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 142.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 142) expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 142) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 142

Whereas for over 350 years the Nation's firefighters have dedicated their lives to the safety of their fellow Americans;

Whereas throughout the Nation's history many firefighters have fallen in the line of duty, leaving behind family members and friends who have grieved their untimely losses;

Whereas these individuals served with pride and honor as volunteer and career firefighters;

Whereas until 1980 there was not a tribute to honor these heroes for their acts of valor or a support system to help the families of these heroes rebuild their lives;

Whereas in 1992 Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember the Nation's fallen firefighters through a variety of activities;

Whereas each year the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation hosts an annual memorial service to honor the memory of all firefighters who die in the line of duty and to bring support and counseling to their families;

Whereas in 2002 the memorial service will take place on October 5 and 6;

Whereas 445 fallen firefighters, including firefighters from nearly every State, will be honored in 2002; and

Whereas many of the family members of these firefighters are expected to attend the memorial service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizes the important mission of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LAO VETERANS OF AMERICA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 406.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 406) honoring and commending the Lao Veterans

of America, Laotian and Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War, and their families, for their historic contributions to the United States.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, including the statement of Senator WELLSTONE.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 406) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to thank my colleagues for passing H. Con. Res. 406. This resolution commemorates the tremendous sacrifice made by so many Lao-Hmong during the Vietnam War.

As a Senator from Minnesota, I am proud to represent one of the largest Hmong populations in America. My experience as a Senator has become so much greater as a result of coming to know the noble history and rich culture of the Hmong people in Minnesota. I am in awe of their sacrifice for the American people.

Hmong soldiers died at ten times the rate of American soldiers in the Vietnam War. Yet, because America's war effort in Laos was covert, the sacrifices and service of the Hmong and Lao veterans is still largely untold. The legislation we passed today is a tribute to the Hmong people's sacrifice for our country. It is a small but meaningful step in honoring and fulfilling our debt to the Hmong and Lao veterans and their families.

This resolution also commends the leadership of the Lao Veterans of America for its work in passing several pieces of legislation I introduced with Congressman Vento that would expedite citizenship for Hmong veterans and their wives. In addition, they led the fight to erect a monument in Arlington National Cemetery in honor of the Hmong who died in the Vietnam War. The Lao Veterans of America, including Chertzong Vang, in Minnesota, and Colonel Vang Yee Vang, Executive Director of the organization, has worked tirelessly to educate Congress and the public about the history and contributions of the Hmong people in our country. This resolution is a fitting response to this important work.

Again, I thank my colleagues for passing this excellent and overdue legislation.

DESIGNATING OCTOBER 10, 2002, AS "PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALI- TIES DAY"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 266 and the Senate

proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 266) designating October 10, 2002, as "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day."

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 266) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 266

Whereas traffic fatalities needlessly claim the lives of more than 40,000 Americans each year;

Whereas traffic crashes are the leading cause of death in the United States for people ages 6 to 28 years;

Whereas 63 percent of those killed in traffic crashes are not wearing safety belts;

Whereas roadside hazards, substandard road conditions, and obsolete roadway designs contribute to more than 15,000 highway deaths annually—nearly 1/3 of all fatal crash deaths;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 people are injured in traffic crashes in the United States each year;

Whereas there are more than 6,000,000 nonfatal traffic crashes in the United States each year;

Whereas deaths and injuries on highways in the United States cost society more than \$230,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas approximately 4,900 pedestrians and 750 bicyclists are killed annually in traffic related crashes;

Whereas safer driving behaviors through the use of seat belts, not drinking and driving, and obeying traffic laws need to be encouraged;

Whereas use of simple, cost-effective roadway safety improvements such as all weather signing and marking, traffic signals, skid resistant pavements, and removal of roadside hazards would greatly reduce crashes;

Whereas continued development of ever-safer vehicles, protective equipment, and roadways would reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries; and

Whereas cooperation between Federal, State, and local governments, private companies, and associations is essential to increasing highway safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 10, 2002, as "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States and interested groups to encourage safe driving and other roadway use.

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2002, AS "CHILDREN'S INTERNET SAFETY MONTH"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to the consideration of S. Res. 338 following the discharge from the Judiciary Committee.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 338) designating the month of October, 2002, as "Children's Internet Safety Month."

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 338) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 338

Whereas the Internet is one of the most effective tools available for purposes of education and research and gives children the means to make friends and freely communicate with peers and family anywhere in the world;

Whereas the new era of instant communication holds great promise for achieving better understanding of the world and providing the opportunity for creative inquiry;

Whereas it is vital to the well-being of children that the Internet offer an open and responsible environment to explore;

Whereas access to objectionable material, such as violent, obscene, or sexually explicit adult material may be received by a minor in unsolicited form;

Whereas there is a growing concern in all levels of society to protect children from objectionable material; and

Whereas the Internet is a positive educational tool and should be seen in such a manner rather than as a vehicle for entities to make objectionable materials available to children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October, 2002, as "Children's Internet Safety Month" and supports its official status on the Nation's promotional calendar; and

(2) supports parents and guardians in promoting the creative development of children by encouraging the use of the Internet in a safe, positive manner.

RECOGNIZING THE ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 334 and that the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 334) recognizing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the mo-

tion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 334) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 334

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, established by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations in 1986, pays tribute to individuals of various ethnic origins who have distinguished themselves through their contributions to the United States;

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor has been awarded on a bipartisan basis to 6 Presidents and numerous Representatives and Senators;

Whereas the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations is the largest organization of its kind in the United States, representing more than 5,000,000 family members and serving as an umbrella group for more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritage, culture, and religion;

Whereas the mandate of the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice, and bring about harmony and unity among all peoples;

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor is named for the gateway through which more than 12,000,000 immigrants passed in their quest for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and economic opportunity;

Whereas the Ellis Island Medal of Honor celebrates the richness and diversity of American life by honoring not only individuals, but the pluralism and democracy that have enabled the Nation's ethnic groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of the American way of life;

Whereas during the 15-year history of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, more than 1,500 individuals from scores of different ethnic groups have received the Medal, and more than 5,000 individuals are nominated each year for the Medal; and

Whereas at the 2002 Ellis Island Medal of Honor ceremony in New York City, individuals from different ethnic groups will be honored for their contributions to the rescue and recovery efforts of September 11, 2001, the war against terrorism, and the enhancement of the Nation's homeland security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for acknowledging individuals who live exemplary lives as Americans while preserving the values of their particular ethnic heritage.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BREAD IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to S. Con. Res. 148 following the discharge of the Judiciary Committee.

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

The clerk will state the concurrent resolution by title.

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 148) recognizing the significance of bread in American history, culture, and daily diet.

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