

quorum, as required under rule XXII, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate return to legislative session.

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

DESIGNATING OCTOBER 27, 2003, AS "INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 251, which was introduced by Senator BROWBACK earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 251) designating October 27, 2003, as "International Religious Freedom Day."

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

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues and the American people to seriously consider the state of religious freedom around the globe.

Exactly 5 years ago we passed groundbreaking legislation aimed at combating international religious persecution. The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 only established the U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom and the International Religious Freedom Office at the Department of State, but it brought the issue of the religious persecution to the forefront of foreign policy initiatives. Religious persecution remains one of the leading violations of human rights in our world today. It is particularly important that on the 5 year anniversary of the passage of this bill, we remind the world of our commitment to promote religious liberty for all people.

This Nation, founded by those seeking to adopt, believe, worship, observe, teach, and practice their religion, was declared in the first amendment that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." And over time, the United States was joined by other countries in signing numerous declaration and international agreements specifically acknowledging the universal human right to freedom of religion.

Despite the great achievements we have made concerning religious liberty, we can not close the book on the millions that still suffer persecution. I remind my colleagues that persecution often includes imprisonment, torture, forced conversion, rape and even death. In Vietnam, Christians are forced to drink the blood of animals and denounce their faith. In Uzbekistan, Mus-

lims who do not conform to the government-prescribed ideas are imprisoned and often tortured. Thousands of religious minorities in India have been killed by extremist majority groups because of their faith. We continue to hear stories from China, North Korea, Sudan, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Burma, Tibet, and the list goes on.

The people of Afghanistan and Iraq are currently faced with the challenge of incorporating religious freedom into the drafting of their new constitutions. As I have said before, religious freedom is the bedrock upon which democracy, hope and progress rest. Additionally, religious freedom is more than just the ability to practice one's faith, but it is central to other rights and freedoms, including a free press, public assembly, freedom of speech or the right to petition the government. All of these freedoms will be circumscribed if religious freedom is not part of the new constitutions being drafted in Afghanistan and Iraq. The time is ripe to unite and continue our work on behalf of the millions that have endured their own plight from religious persecution.

As we remember our victory 5 years ago, let us not forget the crucial work on religious liberty that remains at the forefront of foreign policy today. I hope that this resolution calling for the designation of "International Religious Freedom Day" on October 27, 2003 can be quickly considered and approved by my colleagues.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 that 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 people of the United States enjoy and respect the freedom of religion and believe that the fundamental rights of all individuals shall be recognized;

Whereas fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, are protected in numerous international agreements and declarations;

Whereas religious freedom is an absolute human right and all people are entitled to do with their own souls as they choose;

Whereas the right to freedom of religion is expressed in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 36/55 of November 22, 1981; the Helsinki Accords; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done at New York on December 16, 1966, and entered into force March 23, 1976; the United Nations Charter; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217(A)(III) of December 10, 1948;

Whereas the freedom for all individuals to adopt, believe, worship, observe, teach, and practice a religion individually or collectively has been explicitly articulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas religious persecution is not confined to a country, a region, or a regime; but whereas all governments should provide and protect religious liberty;

Whereas nearly half of the people in the world are continually denied or restricted in the right to believe or practice their faith;

Whereas religious persecution often includes confinement, separation, humiliation, rape, enslavement, forced conversion, imprisonment, torture, and death;

Whereas October 27, 2003, marks the 5th anniversary of the signing of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), creating the Office of International Religious Freedom in the Department of State and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and resulting in a greater awareness of religious persecution both in the United States and abroad; and

Whereas the United States recognizes the need for additional domestic and international attention and action to promote religious liberty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 27, 2003, as "International Religious Freedom Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) calling for a renewed commitment to eliminating violations of the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion and protecting fundamental human rights; and

(B) calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe International Religious Freedom Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 52, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, H.J. Res. 52 recognizes the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States. It passed the House unanimously and is a companion measure to legislation I introduced in the Senate, together with Senator MIKULSKI, S.J. Res. 12.

The principal purpose of this legislation is to help educate the public about the critical importance of oral health

to the overall health of all Americans. Three years ago, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher issued a comprehensive report entitled "Oral Health in America," which identified the problem of dental and oral disease as a "silent epidemic" facing the country. The report called for the development of a National Oral Health Plan, and recommended that actions be taken to "change perceptions regarding oral health and disease so that oral health becomes an accepted component of general health." By designating an official national museum and learning center dedicated to dentistry, this legislation takes an important step toward the achievement of this goal.

The Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry is the largest and most comprehensive museum of dentistry in this country, and, indeed, the world. An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum sits on the grounds of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, founded in 1840 as the world's first dental college. With over 7,000 square feet of exhibit space, the Museum showcases the people, objects, and events that created and defined the dental profession, including one of George Washington's famed ivory dentures. The Museum's vast archives also act as an important resource for research and serious academic study of dentistry's past, with a unique collection of historical dental journals and other one-of-a-kind documents.

By designating the Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry as the official national museum of dentistry, we will not only recognize the critical role that dentists and oral health professionals have played in the history of our Nation's health care system, but enhance awareness and understanding of the importance of dentistry to public health.

I urge adoption of the legislation.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be read three times and passed; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) was read three times and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 252, submitted earlier today by Senator HOLLINGS.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 252) designating the month of February 2004 as "National Cancer Prevention Month."

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

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, cancer is a disease that affects families of all backgrounds in all parts of the country. This year over 550,000 individuals will lose their life due to this terrible illness. While we must continue to pursue promising avenues of research that will hopefully lead to a cure, individuals can take a number of steps to reduce their risk of acquiring cancer.

Research shows that proper nutrition, adequate physical activity, smoking cessation, and receiving timely screening procedures can all reduce cancer occurrences. Unfortunately, many Americans do not take this advice and many others are unaware of the steps they can take to help prevent cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that nutritional factors and tobacco use contribute to approximately two-thirds of cancer deaths. In addition many individuals neglect early detection procedures. Only 50 percent of individuals receive the recommended screening for colon cancer, only 60 percent of men receive a timely prostate-specific antigen test, and 70 percent of women receive recommended mammographies.

Today I submitted a resolution to declare February 2004 as National Cancer Prevention Month. It is my hope that communities across the country will take this opportunity to educate one another on the steps they can take to prevent cancer.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, without any intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 252) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 252

Whereas cancer is one of the most prevalent and devastating diseases to face society in the United States, taking over 550,000 lives in the United States every year;

Whereas early detection of some cancers can prevent the disease from reaching an advanced, potentially fatal stage;

Whereas recent advances in molecular biology have begun to explain the basic origins of cancer;

Whereas these research advances have opened new opportunities for cancer prevention research, giving increased optimism for effective cancer control;

Whereas the people of the United States need to be aware of these research advances and early detection opportunities so that they can better understand how to prevent cancer in themselves and their families; and

Whereas the people of the United States also need to recognize and be reminded that they can help prevent cancer through lifestyle changes, including modification of diet, cessation of smoking, and regular exercise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2004 as "National Cancer Prevention Month"; and

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1781

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1781, introduced earlier today by Senators Dorgan, Snowe, and others, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1781) to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 tomorrow morning on Friday, October 24. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period for morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between Senator HUTCHISON or her designee and the minority leader or his designee.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, following morning business, it is the hope of the majority leader to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 227, H.R. 2800, the foreign operations appropriations bill. There will be no rollcall votes during tomorrow's session. As a reminder, a cloture motion was filed today on the Leavitt nomination to be Administrator of EPA. That vote will be the first vote on Monday and will occur at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could briefly respond to my dear friend from Kentucky, I think today is an example of a very productive day in the Senate. Not only were we able to complete an important appropriations bill but we were also able to get to some other matters that have been in the works for some time, such as fair credit reporting. It was very difficult to get it