

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the Nation;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of National Character Counts Week, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations would focus on character education, would be of great benefit to the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week beginning October 17, 2004, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to—

(A) embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

S. RES. 462

Whereas section 101(1) of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7511(1)) declares that the “United States and the international community should support efforts that advance the development of democratic civil authorities and institutions in Afghanistan and the establishment of a new broad-based, multi-ethnic, gender-sensitive, and fully representative government in Afghanistan”;

Whereas on January 4, 2004, the Constitutional Loya Jirga of Afghanistan adopted a constitution that promises free elections with full participation by women and establishes a legislative foundation for democracy in Afghanistan;

Whereas on June 15, 2004, President Bush stated that “Afghanistan’s journey to democracy and peace deserves the support and respect of every nation The world and the

United States stand with [the people of Afghanistan] as partners in their quest for peace and prosperity and stability and democracy.”;

Whereas the independent Joint Electoral Management Body in Afghanistan and thousands of its staff throughout Afghanistan have worked to register voters and organize a fair and transparent election process despite violent and deadly attacks on them and on the purpose of their work;

Whereas more than 10,500,000 Afghans have been reported registered to vote, demonstrating great courage and a deep desire to have a voice in the future of Afghanistan, and more than 40 percent of those reported registered to vote are women;

Whereas the presidential election campaign in Afghanistan officially began on September 7, 2004 and 18 candidates, including one woman, are seeking the presidency;

Whereas on October 9, 2004, the people of Afghanistan will vote in the first direct presidential election, at the national level, in Afghanistan’s history at 5,000 polling centers located throughout Afghanistan, as well as polling centers in Pakistan and Iran;

Whereas the United States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Asian Network for Free Elections will send monitors and support teams to join the more than 4,000 domestic election observers in Afghanistan for the presidential election;

Whereas the United States and many international partners have provided technical assistance and financial support for elections in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and coalition forces will join the Afghan National Army and police in Afghanistan to help provide security during the presidential election: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States applauds the steadfast commitment of the people of Afghanistan to achieve responsive and responsible government through democracy;

(2) the United States strongly supports self-government and the protection of human rights and freedom of conscience for all men and women in Afghanistan; and

(3) the United States remains committed to a long-term partnership with the people of Afghanistan and to a peaceful future for Afghanistan.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF REVISED EDITION OF SENATE RULES AND MANUAL

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 463.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 463) authorizing the printing of a revised edition of the Senate Rules and Manual.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 463) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 463

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REVISED EDITION OF THE SENATE RULES AND MANUAL.

(a) REVISED EDITION.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall prepare a revised edition of the Senate Rules and Manual for the use of the 109th Congress.

(b) SENATE DOCUMENT.—The revised edition of the Senate Rules and Manual shall be printed as a Senate document.

(c) BINDING AND DISTRIBUTION.—In addition to the usual number of documents, 1,500 additional copies of the revised edition of the Senate Rules and Manual shall be bound and distributed, of which—

(1) 500 paperbound copies shall be for the use of the Senate; and

(2) 1,000 copies shall be delivered as may be directed by the Committee on Rules and Administration and bound as follows:

(A) 550 paperbound.

(B) 250 nontabbed black skiver.

(C) 200 tabbed black skiver.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE WITH RESPECT TO PROSTATE CANCER INFORMATION

NATIONAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION MONTH

NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO ANNUALLY OBSERVE PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MILITARY UNIT FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions at the desk be discharged from their respective committees and the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 389) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to prostate cancer information.

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 8) designating the second week in May each year as National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

A resolution (S. Res. 430) designating November 2004 as National Runaway Prevention Month.

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 486) recognizing and honoring military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated service to the United States, the Armed Forces, and members of the Armed Forces and their families.

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 473) expressing the sense of Congress that it is appropriate to annually observe Patriot Day, September 11, with voluntary acts of service and compassion.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the amendments at the desk be agreed to; the resolutions, as amended, if amended, be agreed to; the preambles, as amended, if amended, be agreed to; the title amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution (S. Res. 389), which was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 389

Whereas in 2004, it is estimated that approximately 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, and nearly 30,000 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States;

Whereas more than \$4,700,000,000 is spent annually in the United States in direct treatment costs for prostate cancer;

Whereas African-American men are diagnosed with and die from prostate cancer more frequently than men of other ethnic backgrounds;

Whereas increased education among health care providers and patients regarding the need for prostate cancer screening tests has resulted in the diagnosis of approximately 86 percent of prostate cancer patients before the cancerous cells have spread appreciably beyond the prostate gland, thereby enhancing the odds of successful treatment;

Whereas the potential complication rates for significant side effects vary among the most common forms of treatment for prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer often strikes elderly people in the United States, men should have an opportunity to learn about the benefits and limitations of testing for prostate cancer detection and of treatment of prostate cancer, so that they can make an informed decision with the assistance of a clinician; and

Whereas Congress as a whole, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to support the fight against prostate cancer, to help raise public awareness about the need to make screening tests available to all people at risk for prostate cancer, and to provide prostate cancer patients with adequate information to assess the relative benefits and risks of treatment options: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) national and community organizations and health care providers have played a commendable role in supplying information concerning the importance of screening for prostate cancer and the treatment options for patients with prostate cancer; and

(2) the Federal Government and the States should ensure that health care providers supply prostate cancer patients with appropriate information and any other tools necessary for prostate cancer patients to receive readily understandable descriptions of the advantages, disadvantages, benefits, and risks of all medically efficacious screening and treatments for prostate cancer, including brachytherapy, hormonal treatments, external beam radiation, chemotherapy, surgery, and watchful waiting.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 8).

The amendments (Nos. 4050 and 4051) were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4050

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That it is the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

AMENDMENT NO. 4051

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas visiting nurse associations ("VNAs") are non-profit home health agencies that, for more than 120 years, have been united in their mission to provide cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services;

Whereas there are approximately 500 visiting nurse associations, which employ more than 90,000 clinicians, provide health care to more than 4,000,000 people each year, and provide a critical safety net in communities by developing a network of community support services that enable individuals to live independently at home;

Whereas visiting nurse associations have historically served as primary public health care providers in their communities, and are today one of the largest providers of mass immunizations in the medicare program (delivering more than 2,500,000 influenza immunizations annually);

Whereas visiting nurse associations are often the home health providers of last resort, serving the most chronic of conditions (such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, AIDS, and quadriplegia) and individuals with the last ability to pay for services (more than 50 percent of all medicare home health admissions are by visiting nurse associations);

Whereas any visiting nurse association budget surplus is reinvested in supporting the association's mission through services, including charity care, adult day care centers, wellness clinics, Meals-on-wheels, and immunization programs;

Whereas visiting nurse associations and other nonprofit home health agencies care for the highest percentage of terminally ill and bedridden patients;

Whereas thousands of visiting nurse association volunteers across the Nation devote time serving as individual agency board members, raising funds, visiting patients in their homes, assisting in wellness clinics, and delivering meals to patients.

Whereas the establishment of National Visiting Nurse Association Week would increase public awareness of the charity-based missions of visiting nurse associations and of their ability to meet the needs of chronically ill and disabled individuals who prefer to live at home rather than in a nursing home, and would spotlight preventive health clinics, adult day care programs, and other customized wellness programs that meet local community needs; and

Whereas the second week of May 2005 is an appropriate week to establish a national visiting Nurse Association Week: Now, therefore, be it

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 8), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 8

Whereas visiting nurse associations ("VNAs") are nonprofit home health agencies that, for more than 120 years, have been united in their mission to provide cost-effective

and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services;

Whereas there are approximately 500 visiting nurse associations, which employ more than 90,000 clinicians, provide health care to more than 4,000,000 people each year, and provide a critical safety net in communities by developing a network of community support services that enable individuals to live independently at home;

Whereas visiting nurse associations have historically served as primary public health care providers in their communities, and are today one of the largest providers of mass immunizations in the medicare program (delivering more than 2,500,000 influenza immunizations annually);

Whereas visiting nurse associations are often the home health providers of last resort, serving the most chronic of conditions (such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, AIDS, and quadriplegia) and individuals with the least ability to pay for services (more than 50 percent of all medicare home health admissions are by visiting nurse associations);

Whereas any visiting nurse association budget surplus is reinvested in supporting the association's mission through services, including charity care, adult day care centers, wellness clinics, Meals-on-Wheels, and immunization programs;

Whereas visiting nurse associations and other nonprofit home health agencies care for the highest percentage of terminally ill and bedridden patients;

Whereas thousands of visiting nurse association volunteers across the Nation devote time serving as individual agency board members, raising funds, visiting patients in their homes, assisting in wellness clinics, and delivering meals to patients;

Whereas the establishment of a National Visiting Nurse Association Week would increase public awareness of the charity-based missions of visiting nurse associations and of their ability to meet the needs of chronically ill and disabled individuals who prefer to live at home rather than in a nursing home, and would spotlight preventive health clinics, adult day care programs, and other customized wellness programs that meet local community needs; and

Whereas the second week of May 2005 is an appropriate week to establish as National Visiting Nurse Association Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

The title amendment (No. 4052) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4052

Amend the title so as to read: "Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Visiting Nurse Association Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution (S. Res. 430), which was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 430

Whereas the prevalence of runaway and homeless youth in the United States is staggering, with studies suggesting that between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 young people live on the streets of the United States each year;

Whereas running away from home is widespread, with 1 out of every 7 children in the United States running away before the age of 18;

Whereas youth that end up on the streets are often those who have been thrown out of

their homes by their families, who have been physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home, who have been discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans, who have lost their parents through death or divorce, and who are too poor to secure their own basic needs;

Whereas effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting young people in remaining at home with their families succeeded because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing young people from running away and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national responsibility;

Whereas the future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the value placed on young people and the opportunities provided for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youth and provide an array of community-based support services that address the critical needs of such youth;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth to their families and to link young people to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away; and

Whereas the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are co-sponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youth in high-risk situations and the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives, resources, and supports for youth, families, and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates November 2004 as "National Runaway Prevention Month".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 486), which was agreed to.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 473), which was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF COMMEMORATIVE DOCUMENT IN MEMORY OF LATE PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

Mr. FRIST. I ask that the Chair now lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. Con. Res. 135, providing for the printing of a commemorative document honoring former President Reagan.

The President pro tempore laid before the Senate a message from the House, as follows:

Resolved, That the resolution from the Senate (S. Con. Res. 135) entitled "Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of a commemorative document in memory of the late President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan", do pass with the following amendment:

Page 1, beginning on line 13, strike [Senate document, with illustrations and suitable binding] and insert "House document, with illustrations and suitable binding, under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing".

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House

amendment and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORT AND EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5131, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5131) to provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of the Special Olympics and development of educational programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5131) was read the third time and passed.

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE SCIENCE LEARNING CENTER

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 57.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 57) expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the contributions of the seven Columbia astronauts by supporting establishment of a Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 57) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the majority leader is on the floor, as the leader knows, we had a difficult time working things out last night and so I would ask that the 10 minutes we have used here this morning which would push the vote to right about 10 after 1, that we have these times locked in. I think that would be appropriate, so I

ask unanimous consent that everything slide 10 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leader time is reserved.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4520, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4520), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove impediments in such Code and make our manufacturing, service, and high-technology businesses and workers more competitive and productive both at home and abroad, having met have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 1 p.m. shall be equally divided between the managers. Within that time, there are specific times set aside for specific Senators: 11:40 to 12:10 p.m., the Senator from Louisiana; 12:10 to 12:30, the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD; 12:30 to 1 p.m., the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, and the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS.

There are further exceptions to this in the Calendar before the Senators.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I yield myself 10 minutes of allotted time. I so ask unanimous consent.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BUNNING.

Mr. President, I rise today in support of the conference report on the American Job Creation Act of 2004. This conference report will provide needed incentives for U.S. manufacturers and will take the first step toward ending EU tariffs on our exporters.

Most importantly for Kentucky, this bill will finally bring the help that our tobacco growers have needed for years.

Because we are repealing the FSC/E.T.I. rules, the European Union must remove the sanctions—now 11 percent—which they have levied on many U.S. exports.

I have from employers back home about how they are struggling under the weight of these tariffs, which are hurting their exports and their plans to expand their businesses.

By passing this bill, we make our exports more competitive again, and we help our economy create new jobs.