

values for all Americans: freedom and democracy.

Like the bald eagle, the American Eagle Foundation is not just a Tennessee treasure, but a national one. The work done by the American Eagle Foundation has been critical to helping bring the American bald eagle back from the brink of extinction. The bald eagle now soars above every State except Hawaii. With the continued success of programs and efforts of the American Eagle Foundation and other groups, the American bald eagle may soon be "de-listed" from the Endangered Species Act.

Senator LANDRIEU and I have worked hard to pass this bill in the Senate, and Tennessee Congressmen BILL JENKINS and HAROLD FORD led the bipartisan effort in the House of Representatives. Al Cecere, President of the American Eagle Foundation, worked tirelessly to assemble a national coalition of eagle supporters, and his face has been a welcome sight in the halls of Congress over the last year.

Al was regularly accompanied by Challenger, a 16-year-old American bald eagle that has brought this campaign to life. Many Americans have seen Challenger perform, flying into the World Series, professional and college football games, and other events. Now many Congressmen and Senators have met Challenger, too.

We should all be proud to have taken this step, today, to commemorate and support our national symbol, the American bald eagle.

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 that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4116) was read the third time and passed.

PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF ELECTION IN UKRAINE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 487 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 487) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the November 21, 2004, Presidential runoff election in Ukraine.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the last 17 days we have all watched with interest as the human yearning for freedom surged through the streets of Ukraine.

After an election marred by vast fraud and corruption, hundreds of thousands of supporters of the opposition candidate, Mr. Yushchenko, have raised their voices for democracy, legitimacy and fairness.

The Senate has condemned the widespread fraud in the November 21 runoff between Mr. Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yanukovych, and called for a peaceful resolution to the political situation in Ukraine.

The rule of law must prevail. Fair and free elections are what the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian demonstrators have been demanding. I am pleased that the Senate is going to pass this resolution expressing support for a peaceful and legal outcome that represents the will of the Ukrainian people.

Mr. FRIST. 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 this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 487) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 487

Whereas on November 21, 2004, Ukraine held a presidential runoff election between former Prime Minister and opposition candidate Victor Yushchenko and current Prime Minister Victor Yanukovych;

Whereas the Ukrainian Central Election Commission reported that Mr. Yanukovych won 49.42 percent of the vote and Mr. Yushchenko won 46.7 percent of the vote in the runoff election, despite the fact that several exit polls indicated that Mr. Yushchenko secured significantly more votes than Mr. Yanukovych;

Whereas the International Election Observation Mission from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) determined that the runoff election did not meet international standards for democratic elections, and specifically declared that state resources were abused to support the candidacy of Prime Minister Yanukovych;

Whereas the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, a nongovernmental electoral organization in Ukraine, reported on illegal voting by absentee ballot, multiple voting, assaults on electoral observers, journalists and the use of counterfeit ballots;

Whereas such reports of fraud were also echoed by Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, an observer to the runoff election designated by President George W. Bush;

Whereas since November 22, 2004, tens of thousands of people have engaged in peaceful demonstrations in Kiev, Ukraine, to protest the declaration by the Central Election Commission of Mr. Yanukovych as the winner of the runoff election;

Whereas antigovernment protests in support of opposition candidate Mr. Yushchenko took place in cities throughout Ukraine, and several city councils adopted resolutions that declared Mr. Yushchenko as the legally elected president;

Whereas on November 23, 2004, opposition candidate Mr. Yushchenko declared victory in the runoff election;

Whereas the United States has called for a complete and immediate investigation into the conduct of the runoff election to examine fully the reports of fraud and corruption;

Whereas the European Union has also stated that authorities in Ukraine must redress

election irregularities and that the reported results do not reflect the will of the people of Ukraine;

Whereas the Ukrainian Supreme Court blocked the publication of the official runoff election results stating that Mr. Yanukovych was the winner, thus preventing his inauguration as President of Ukraine until the court examined the reports of voter fraud;

Whereas on November 27, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a resolution declaring that there were violations of law during the runoff election but on November 30, 2004, with support from progovernment and communist parties, canceled the resolution;

Whereas 15 eastern and southern regions in Ukraine that supported the candidacy of Mr. Yanukovych threatened to split off from the country if an illegitimate president were to come to power;

Whereas on December 1, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a no confidence motion in the cabinet of Prime Minister Yanukovych as approximately 100,000 supporters of Mr. Yushchenko demonstrated in front of the parliament building;

Whereas Mr. Yanukovych and Mr. Yushchenko, along with European mediators and current Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma, began discussions on December 1, 2004, to attempt to work out a resolution to the standoff;

Whereas on December 3, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled that the November 21, 2004, runoff election was invalid and ordered a new vote on December 26, 2004;

Whereas on December 8, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed electoral changes to reform the Central Election Commission and close loopholes for fraud, as well as constitutional changes to reduce the power of the President of Ukraine; and

Whereas the manner in which this crisis is resolved will have significant implications for the perceptions of the democratic institutions of Ukraine by the international community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the widespread fraud in the November 21, 2004, runoff presidential election in Ukraine; and

(2) supports a peaceful political and legal settlement in Ukraine that is based on the principles of democracy and reflects the will of the people of Ukraine.

RELIEF OF TANYA ANDREA GOUDEAU

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 530 and 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 bill (H.R. 530) for the relief of Tanya Andrea Goudeau.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 530) was read a third time and passed.

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during this adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, due to an unfortunate family health situation, Senator HATCH was unable to be present on the floor of the Senate today. If he had been able to attend today's vote on the conference report to accompany S. 2845, the intelligence reform bill, he would have voted for passage of the report.

THE 108TH CONGRESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, we will shortly be closing the Senate. But while we are waiting to process some of the paperwork, I would like to make several brief statements, the first of which looks back at what has truly been an extraordinary period of legislative progress during this 108th Congress. From tax cuts to intelligence reform, we took on the big issues, and we made great strides for the American people.

One major reform bill over a congressional term is remarkable. Two makes this Congress truly unique. In both cases, efforts at reform have been stymied for decades. The 108th Congress finally broke through the logjam and delivered for the American people.

Our mission in the 108th Congress was clear—to expand freedom and opportunities, and to strengthen America's security. As we return to our home States over the course of the afternoon and tonight and over the next several days, we can all be proud of what we have accomplished.

As majority leader, most of the time I spend on the floor focuses on floor activity and events that are important to the entire country.

What I would like to do for several minutes is to speak directly to my fellow Tennesseans who see me many times working for the large domestic issues and sometimes do not hear me

talk directly about how that affects them in their everyday lives in Tennessee. Thus, I would like to take these moments to speak directly to my fellow Tennesseans about how what we have accomplished here in Washington will benefit the States.

It begins with that first reform bill, a bill that strengthened and improved Medicare for the first time in 40 years—really since the inception of that program. Medicare will offer a reform which allows the provision of affordable health care for prescription drugs. It is truly remarkable looking back. We have a health care plan, a health care program that focuses on our seniors' security, the health security for our seniors, and it has been without prescription drugs. Up until passage of this bill, the seniors have been denied coverage under Medicare for outpatient prescription drugs. Yet today—very different than even 20 or even 10 years ago—we know that prescription drugs are the most powerful tool in the arsenal of modern medicine in order to treat illness and to prevent illness.

Under the new Medicare law, seniors will now have access to a prescription drug benefit that will begin in January of 2006.

Over 40 million seniors and individuals with disabilities will soon enjoy true health care security. Without including prescription drugs, there is no way we can look a senior in the eye—it might be your mom, your dad, your grandparents—and say: Our government is going to help you with health care security. It is impossible because up until now prescription drugs simply were not included. But they are today because of the leadership, the efforts, and hard work of my colleagues in the Senate.

How many Tennesseans does that affect? There are 40 million seniors and individuals with disabilities nationwide affected by this legislation. In Tennessee, there are 870,000 Tennessee seniors who will benefit from this provision we passed in this Senate.

In October, I joined my staff as we crisscrossed the great State of Tennessee, describing to and helping people enroll in the prescription card drug program we passed. We wanted to let seniors know in these town meetings, seniors at retirement homes and retirement centers who are currently eligible for a Medicare-approved discount card which offers them savings of anywhere from 10 percent of what they are paying today to 20 percent, 25 percent on average, and sometimes as high as 50, 60, and 70 percent. We realized the impact of this legislation when we witnessed how much they were paying for their prescription drugs when we contrast it—it is all on the Internet today—with what they can save by having that prescription drug card which seniors are eligible for today.

In addition to that average 10 to 25 percent average discount, and sometimes 50, 60, 70 percent discounts, low-

income seniors will receive a \$600 annual subsidy in extra assistance to help pay for their prescription drugs. I mention it now because if low-income seniors apply for the card, they get \$600 over the next 30 days and then another \$600 after January 1 for next year. If you do not apply for the card today and wait until after January 1, you only have that \$600. I encourage seniors, especially low-income seniors who have not applied for that card, to do so today.

As I have said many times in the Senate, if you are listening to me now through our radio or C-SPAN, I encourage you, if you do not have the card, call 1-800-Medicare tomorrow and ask what that card can do for you. The benefits are huge. I encourage seniors to take advantage of it.

In addition to that major reform of Medicare, we passed \$350 billion in tax relief, which is the third largest tax cut in history. We have cut taxes across the board for 136 million hard-working, tax-paying Americans. For Tennessee, that includes 1.7 million who saw their tax bills go down in the year 2003 because of this legislation. It comes down to the philosophy, the belief we have that taxes are the people's money, not the Government's money. We think Americans simply pay too much, and thus this Senate acted, and people's taxes have all gone down.

Our goal is straightforward: To put more money back into the pockets of hard-working Americans, thereby giving those Americans the opportunity to save for the future, to invest, to spend on their children, their children's education or school books or school supplies, buying that computer or being able to go on the Internet—those tangible items, those real advantages that were made possible because of action in this Congress.

That is the same reason we acted to extend key parts of the President's tax relief plan for middle-class families. What does that mean? It means the marriage penalty. We acted to give true marriage penalty relief, and we acted to extend that key part of the President's plan. The \$1,000-per-child tax credit we acted to extend through the year 2010. We made sure low-income Americans will continue to benefit from that very low 10-percent tax bracket, benefiting in a direct fashion.

The Jobs and Growth Act of 2003, which we passed and was signed by the President, also provided Federal funds for States to carry out essential government services and to pay for Federal mandates, mandates passed on to the States. How much does that mean? We are always talking about such big dollars. For the State of Tennessee that provision of funds amounted to \$97 million for 2003 and another \$97 million for 2004.

Regarding Medicaid, an issue that is receiving a lot of focus in my own State of Tennessee—how best to reform Medicare so that it can be sustained