

legislation, small business disaster victims may go out of business.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two letters relating to programs affected by this legislation be printed in the RECORD. I thank my colleagues for their support of small businesses and for considering immediate passage of this important small business bill.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A BETTER PLACE TO BE DAY SPA,
Charlestown, MA.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: This past summer I had the opportunity to work with the Center for Women & Enterprise when I was in the beginning stages of writing a business plan for a small day spa that had long been a dream. My business partner and childhood friend and I were both born to working class families and raised in Charlestown. I was educated in the Boston Public School system and went on to attend Boston University on one of their Boston Scholars full tuition scholarships. While working full time after graduation, I decided to enroll at the Muscular Therapy Institute in Cambridge with the goal in mind of opening my own business someday. My business partner held down a full time job and attended The Elizabeth Grady School of Aesthetics in preparation for our venture. While for many years we talked about our dream, we know that making that dream become the reality it is today, would not have been possible without programs like the Center for Women & Enterprise and the Small Business Administration.

For the last 2 years we had been keeping our eyes and ears open about commercial space in Charlestown, which is not easy to come by and generally not affordable. Our goal was to open by May 2004 (when I will turn 30 and my partner will be 31). We hadn't even begun the business plan writing when the ideal location became available in August. The 1,500 square foot commercial space is located at Mishuam Park Apartments on Maine Street in Charlestown which is an apartment complex funded through the HUD Section 236 program and is managed by Peabody Properties. We had to move quickly on the space and before we knew it we had signed a lease and incorporated in a matter of days. Our target opening date then became November 1st which didn't leave us much time to pull things together but we didn't even know how overwhelming the whole process might have been if we had not found the Center for Women & Enterprise.

After contacting CWE, I received a call back within minutes from Bea Chiem and she would prove to be an invaluable resource to us during the following months. She took what was very complicated and overwhelming for us and made it so much easier to understand. Every time we would come to a part of the financials that we thought we might never figure out, we knew Bea was only a phone call away. I was most impressed by her response time to each and every question I had. Her patience, knowledge and belief in our vision played a major role in us getting the financing we needed. CWE should be proud to have such a caring and knowledgeable woman on the team.

The closing on our loan with Sovereign finally took place last week and we got a \$60,000 term loan and the \$40,000 line of credit we requested from Sovereign through an SBA loan. Shannon and I cannot thank the Center for Women & Enterprise enough for all of their help. We have no doubt that without CWE (and Bea) in our corner the finan-

cial institutions we approached would not have taken us as seriously.

The way in which the center for Women & Enterprise reaches out to help women in business inspired us to do the same. In selecting suppliers and inventory for our gift shop within the spa, we chose to carry products that were made by women or by women owned businesses with a preference given to Massachusetts or New England based businesses.

A Better Place to Be Day Spa, was received well by the Charlestown community, we had 400 people at our grand opening open house on November 1st and have a steady stream of clients coming through our doors each day. And in the short time we have been open we have seen many repeat clients already. Our business got off to a great start because of the Center for Women & Enterprise and as we continue to grow I will be sure to let our clients know that A Better Place to Be Day Spa is here because of the guidance we received from the Center for Women & Enterprise and the support of the Small Business Administration.

In closing I need you to know that what the Center for Women & Enterprise and the SBA do for women in business is truly incredible. I particularly enjoy the frequent newsletters outlining upcoming events as well as educational opportunities and workshops that I will be sure to take advantage of in the future. A Better Place to Be Day Spa will be represented at the upcoming State House Day and we will continue to look for ways that we can give back to other women in business through CWE.

Thank you.

MELANIE MARSDEN,
SHANNON LAWLER,
Owners.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS,
Kansas City MO, March 9, 2004.

Hon. JOHN KERRY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: On behalf of the Kansas City chapter of the National Assoc. of Women Business Owners (representing 200 members), I would like to request the following actions be taken regarding the SBA 7(a) program.

Absent the SBA asking congress for additional funding, NAWBO supports increasing fees on lenders as an approach to adequately fund the SBA 7(a) program and to lift restrictions.

Specifically, NAWBO would like the program to:

Allow piggyback loans, but charge a 0.50 percent lender fee for each;

Raise lender fees by 0.10 percent; and

For loans that are under \$150,000, have lenders pay the SBA the 0.25 percent fee that lenders currently keep for themselves. This only applies to these small loans.

Thank you.

ELAINE HAMILTON,
Public Policy Chair.●

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—COMMENDING THE BRAVERY OF THE INITIAL RESPONDERS IN THE BALTIMORE HARBOR WATER TAXI ACCIDENT OF MARCH 6, 2004

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SARBANES) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 312

Whereas on Saturday, March 6, 2004, a water taxi overturned in Baltimore Harbor during a sudden and vicious storm;

Whereas 25 passengers were thrown into the Harbor, into frigid 43 degree water, with little chance of survival;

Whereas tragically, 1 person died and 3 people are presumed to be dead;

Whereas if not for the immediate action of the initial responders, more lives would certainly have been lost;

Whereas the initial responders demonstrated extraordinary bravery in their heroic response in rescuing the passengers;

Whereas after noticing the accident, the initial responders rushed to the scene, piloting their vessel to the accident site and immediately diving into the frigid waters in their street clothes and boots to help those clinging for their lives;

Whereas the initial responders not only saved those clinging to the boat for survival but used their exceptional skills and ingenuity to elevate the capsized boat to rescue those passengers trapped beneath;

Whereas the team of initial responders worked together to pull the passengers out of the water, identify those who needed immediate medical attention, turn the Fort McHenry Drill Hall into a triage center to identify the victims who were most in need, and provide all with dry clothing and warm blankets;

Whereas it was a team effort to rescue and save those stranded in the freezing Chesapeake waters that involved rescuers in the water, on the pier, and at Fort McHenry;

Whereas we commend the courage and resolution of Maryland's outstanding initial responders whose quick reaction to this terrible accident saved lives; and

Whereas we praise these initial responders—the Navy Reservists, Coast Guard, Maritime Fire Department, Baltimore Fire Department, Bowleys Quarters Search and Rescue Team, and the emergency medical team—who worked together as a team to rescue people and save lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) pays tribute to the victims of this terrible accident and expresses its condolences to their families;

(2) commends the initial responders in the Baltimore water taxi accident of March 6, 2004, for their bravery, quick thinking, courage, and ingenuity in rescuing the passengers of the water taxi that capsized after a sudden and vicious storm swept over the Baltimore Harbor; and

(3) commends the team of initial responders for this extraordinary demonstration of their ongoing commitment and dedication to saving lives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ENCOURAGING THE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF AMERICANS IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND URGING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO COORDINATE WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN CREATING AN ONLINE DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 313

Whereas many polls and studies have indicated that the United States needs to do a

better job of building personal and institutional relationships with peoples and nations around the world in order to combat anti-American sentiment;

Whereas broad bipartisan consensus in favor of strengthening United States public diplomacy emerged during 2003 in both Houses of Congress and in various reports, including reports of the Council on Foreign Relations, the General Accounting Office, the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, the Heritage Foundation, and the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World;

Whereas in November 2003, NAFSA: Association of International Educators warned that Americans' lack of knowledge of the world represents a national liability in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas international exchange programs, which have assisted in extending American influence in the world by educating the world's leaders, are suffering from a decline in funding and policy priority;

Whereas the number of United States university-level students studying abroad in 2001–2002 was 160,920, representing just over 1 percent of United States students;

Whereas % of United States students studying abroad study in Western Europe (18.7 percent in the United Kingdom alone), although 95 percent of the world population growth in the next 50 years is expected to occur outside Western Europe;

Whereas the number of scholarships for foreign students studying at United States institutions has dropped from 20,000 a year in the 1980s to 900 in 2003;

Whereas there are 29,400,000 retired workers in the United States as of June 2003, meaning that there are many older Americans who have the talent, maturity, and time to volunteer their services abroad;

Whereas the average American college graduate who has studied 1 of the less commonly taught languages reaches no more than an intermediate level of proficiency in the language, which is insufficient to meet national security requirements; and

Whereas there are hundreds of well-established organizations in the United States that implement educational and professional exchanges, international volunteering, and related programs, and the efforts of those organizations could readily be expanded to reach out to more Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "People-to-People Engagement in World Affairs Resolution".

SEC. 2 SENSE OF SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to urge the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners in creating an online database that provides information on how Americans can take advantage of—

(A) international exchange programs of the Department of State, the Department of Education, and other Federal Government and non-government entities;

(B) volunteer opportunities with organizations that assist refugees and immigrants in the United States;

(C) opportunities to host international students and professionals in the United States;

(D) sister-city organizations in the United States;

(E) international fairs and cultural events in the United States; and

(F) foreign language learning opportunities;

(2) to challenge Americans to become more engaged in international affairs and more aware of peoples and developments outside the United States; and

(3) to encourage Americans to seize 1 or more opportunities toward this end, by such means as—

(A) participating in a professional or cultural exchange;

(B) studying abroad;

(C) volunteering abroad;

(D) working with an immigrant or refugee group;

(E) hosting a foreign student or professional;

(F) participating in a sister-city program; and

(G) learning a foreign language.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit the People-to-People Engagement in World Affairs resolution with my esteemed colleague, Senator CHUCK HAGEL.

In the 1960s, during a troubled and divisive time for our country, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Today, the need is even more urgent for Americans to be active participants both in the United States and abroad.

This People-to-People Engagement in World Affairs resolution is a call to Americans to look beyond our borders to engage with the wider world at an individual, human level. It encourages Americans to seize opportunities to engage in the global arena—through participating in a professional or cultural exchange; studying or volunteering abroad; working with an immigrant or refugee group in the United States; hosting a foreign student or professional; participating in a sister-city program; and/or learning a foreign language.

It also asks the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners in creating an online database that lists these opportunities for Americans.

In today's world, our challenges and opportunities are global in nature. Terrorism, the greatest threat to our national security, crosses all national boundaries and feeds off the gaps in intelligence and communication created by borders. Other important issues, such as the proliferation of WMD, human trafficking, poverty, environmental degradation, and diseases from HIV/AIDS to polio also have little regard for borders. These challenges require international cooperation, and Americans at all levels of society are instrumental in finding and achieving meaningful solutions.

This resolution encourages Americans to forge relationships with people outside of the United States to change not only how Americans view and act in the world, but how others view Americans. Presently, anti-Americanism is growing at a startling rate. According to the Pew Research Center, negative views of the United States among Muslims, which were once limited to the Middle East, have spread to populations in places like Nigeria and Indonesia. A growing percentage of Muslims see serious threats to Islam by the United States. Majorities in

seven of eight Muslim populations surveyed express worries that the U.S. might become a military threat to their countries. And these disturbing trends hold strong even beyond the Muslim world.

This is dangerous for a number of reasons. Anti-Americanism undermines our ability to work effectively with other countries on our global problems. In addition, in our fight against terror, anti-Americanism can create a steady supply of recruits for terrorist networks, intent on our destruction. These terrorist networks have unfairly blamed the United States for the unemployment, the poverty and the powerlessness that so many around the world experience on a daily basis. They feed off erroneous perceptions of Americans, distorting our image to achieve their own objectives.

Americans must combat these misperceptions and turn mistrust into understanding. If we don't define ourselves to the people of the world, we run the risk that terrorist will continue to make America a scapegoat for other nation's ills. In order to show the world who Americans really are, diplomacy must occur at all levels of society and not only through U.S. government representatives. Artists, scholars, teachers, nurses, doctors, and business people all have a role in shaping this image and in presenting a different American face to the world.

Many Americans have been engaged for decades. In my own State of Wisconsin, my constituents have demonstrated altruism and curiosity daily. They have worked in the Peace Corps, trained dairy farmers in South America and Eastern Europe, participated in sister-city exchanges with the former Soviet Union, traveled to refugee camps in Thailand and hosted international students. Through these activities, my constituents have fought stereotypes and created openings for greater trust and cooperation. The need is greater now than ever before for more Americans to become involved.

I have been approached by Americans of all ages and all economic backgrounds to ask me how they can become more involved. This resolution is a response to those Americans and a challenge to many more to define our times and to shape our world. The creation of the online database as part of this resolution will assist Americans in finding the best way for them personally to participate. Americans will use their enthusiasm and curiosity to engage in the world where they can—through tutoring children, through assisting refugees who come to our country, through professional training, and through showing concern for the well-being of other outside of the United States.

This resolution is a challenge to Americans to make connections in their own way—to listen and show respect for others and their way of life. Americans can bridge the gap between

this powerful nation and people around the world who feel frustrated and powerless. We can change perceptions, change minds, and change the world we live in.

SENATE RESOLUTION 314—COMMEMORATING AND HONORING PRESIDENT BORIS TRAJKOVSKI

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 314

Whereas President Boris Trajkovski of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia played a vital role in efforts to promote peace, stability, and democratic reform in his country and throughout Southeast Europe;

Whereas President Trajkovski was tragically killed on Thursday, February 26, 2004, when a plane carrying the President and 8 others crashed in southern Bosnia;

Whereas the people elected Boris Trajkovski to serve as President in November 1999, and inaugurated him as the second Macedonian President on December 15, 1999;

Whereas President Trajkovski led the country during a tumultuous period in Southeast Europe, working with the international community to accommodate refugees following the crisis in neighboring Kosovo in 1999, and playing a significant role in the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2001;

Whereas President Trajkovski promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights, and encouraged economic, judicial, and military reforms necessary to move the country toward membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union; and

Whereas the Macedonian government continues to work to join Europe's democratic institutions, and peace and stability in the country is critical to the broader region of Southeast Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers its condolences and deepest sympathy to the people of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the family of President Boris Trajkovski, and the families of the other crash victims during this difficult period;

(2) recognizes the courageous leadership and the significant role that President Trajkovski played in efforts to promote peace, stability, and reform, including his work to secure the 2001 Ohrid Framework Agreement; and

(3) encourages the Macedonian government to continue efforts to implement the Ohrid Peace Agreement, and to move forward with reforms necessary to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—DESIGNATING MARCH 8, 2004, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the fol-

lowing resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 315

Whereas all over the world women are contributing to the growth of economies, participating in the world of diplomacy and politics, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality and is often the basis for violations of women's basic human rights;

Whereas worldwide, the lives and health of women and girls continue to be endangered by violence that is directed at them simply because of their gender;

Whereas worldwide, violence against women includes rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, honor killings, sexual trafficking in women, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sex-selection abortion, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, and forced abortion;

Whereas the World Health Organization asserts that domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women between ages 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war;

Whereas 130,000,000 girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, and it is estimated that 10,000 girls are at risk of being subjected to this practice in the United States and more than 160,000 girls and women in immigrant communities in the United States may have been victims of the traditional practice of female genital mutilation or are at risk of being subjected to it;

Whereas worldwide, at least 1 in 3 women has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas 1 in 6 women in the United States has experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault and 1 in 5 women reported she had been raped or physically or sexually assaulted in her lifetime;

Whereas in the United States, a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds;

Whereas over 300,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy;

Whereas more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day;

Whereas nearly 25 percent of American women report being raped or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their lifetime;

Whereas in the United States, battering is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44;

Whereas it is estimated that 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas worldwide, 20 to 50 percent of women experience some degree of domestic violence during marriage;

Whereas worldwide, women account for 1/2 of all cases of HIV/AIDS, approximately 42,000,000, and in countries with high HIV prevalence, young women are at a higher risk than young men of contracting HIV;

Whereas worldwide, sexual violence, including marital rape, has been announced as a major cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women;

Whereas 1/3 of the world's nearly 1,000,000,000 illiterate individuals are women;

Whereas worldwide, girls are less likely to complete school than boys;

Whereas 1/3 of children denied primary education are girls;

Whereas in most countries, women work approximately twice the unpaid time men do;

Whereas about 3 in 10 households are maintained by women with no husband present;

Whereas rural women produce more than 55 percent of all food grown in developing countries;

Whereas women comprise almost 15 percent of the active duty, reserve, and guard units of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas it is estimated that women and girls make up more than 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 poorest people in the world;

Whereas women work 2/3 of the world's working hours, and produce 1/2 of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income, and own less than 1 percent of the world's property;

Whereas worldwide women still earn less, own less property, and have less access to education, employment, and health care than do men;

Whereas between 75 and 80 percent of the world's 27,000,000 refugees are women and children;

Whereas illegal trafficking worldwide for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom 50,000 are transported to the United States;

Whereas as many as 750,000 women and children have been trafficked into the United States over the last decade;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day for the last century, and is a day on which people, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for women's equality, justice, and peace;

Whereas the dedication and success of those working all over the world to end violence against women and girls and fighting for equality should be recognized; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 8, 2004, as International Women's Day;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to—

(A) ending discrimination and violence against women;

(B) ensuring the safety and welfare of women; and

(C) pursuing policies that guarantee the basic rights of women both in the United States and in the world; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe "International Women's Day" with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 316—DESIGNATING APRIL 2004 AS "FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH"

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. KOHL, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INOUE and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 316

Whereas only 26 percent of 13- to 21-year olds reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money;

Whereas a 2002 survey by the National Council on Economic Education found that a decreasing number of States include personal finance in their education standards

for students in kindergarten through grade 12;

Whereas a 2002 study by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know even less about credit cards, retirement funds, insurance, and other personal finance basics than high school seniors did 5 years ago;

Whereas 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 83 percent of college students have at least 1 credit card;

Whereas personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5 percent in the early 1980s to 2.3 percent in the first 3 quarters of 2003;

Whereas today more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in 401(k) plans;

Whereas a 2002 Retirement Confidence Survey found that only 32 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement;

Whereas only 30 percent of those surveyed in a 2003 Employee Benefit Trend Study are confident in their ability to make the right financial decisions for themselves and their families, and 25 percent have done no specific financial planning;

Whereas between 25,000,000 and 56,000,000 adults are unbanked, i.e., not using mainstream, insured financial institutions;

Whereas millions of people in the United States derive great benefits from the wide variety of products and services offered by the financial services industry in the United States, and such financial products and services allow individuals and families to build homes, start businesses, finance educations, buy cars, and meet the everyday needs of everyday life;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower cost, safer options for managing their finances and building wealth;

Whereas a greater understanding and familiarity with financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas financial education has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes;

Whereas financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion of an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas personal financial management skills and life-long habits develop during childhood;

Whereas personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens; and

Whereas Congress found it important enough to ensure coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts and formulate a national strategy that it established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission in 2003 and designated the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2004 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that may be associated with a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Govern-

ment, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 97—RECOGNIZING THE 91ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 97

Whereas The Garden Club of America is holding its 91st annual meeting in Washington, D.C. April 24 through 27, 2004;

Whereas The Garden Club of America has 195 member clubs in 40 States and the District of Columbia, representing more than 17,000 members;

Whereas since its founding in 1913, The Garden Club of America has become a recognized leader in the fields of horticulture, conservation, historic preservation, and civic improvement, and an influential organization in the protection of America's environment; and

Whereas in our Nation's Capital, The Garden Club of America was instrumental in the founding of the National Arboretum, the development of the Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution, and the creation and installation of the Butterfly Habitat Garden which now graces The National Mall at the National Museum of Natural History: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress commends The Garden Club of America for the many contributions it has made in our Nation's Capital and in communities across the United States, and sends its best wishes on the occasion of its 91st annual meeting in Washington, D.C., April 24 through 27, 2004.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I am submitting legislation together with Senator MIKULSKI that would recognize the achievements of The Garden Club of America on the occasion of its 91st annual meeting in Washington, DC, from April 24 through 27, 2004. This meeting in our Nation's Capital is especially significant because it occurs here only once every twenty-five years. This legislation recognizes and honors The Garden Club and the work of its 17,000 members to improve our country.

Since its founding in 1913, The Garden Club of America has grown to include 195 member clubs in 40 States and the District of Columbia. It is a recognized leader in the fields of horticulture, conservation, historic preservation, civic improvement, and has significant influence in the protection of America's environment.

Right here in the District of Columbia we can witness the results of The Garden Club's labor. Indeed it played an instrumental role in the founding of the National Arboretum and the development of the Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution.

Perhaps even more importantly, The Garden Club has become a significant impetus for community service across the United States. The scope of The

Garden Club of America goes well beyond its numerous publications, its public plant and flower shows, and its national medalists. It is a source for the exchange of ideas and a platform for the betterment of our communities across this great country. The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, but also to share the advantages of association through educational meetings, conferences, correspondence, and publications, and to improve the quality of the environment through conservation and civic improvement.

As a Marylander I know first hand of the contributions The Garden Club of America has made to our State. Ladew Topiary Gardens is a prime example of the edification and enjoyment that stems from the support of The Garden Club of America. Since 1971, Ladew Gardens has used its 22 acres of gardens to educate children, entertain families, and promote the importance of beautiful landscapes within our communities. Every spring and summer, hundreds of families congregate in the gardens to enjoy the Sunday concerts, afternoon picnics, and self-guided educational nature walks. And every year, hundreds of families leave the gardens with an exhilarated appreciation for America's outdoors, and an enriched desire to conserve that beauty.

The Garden Club of America has asked for very little in return for its dedication to America's beautiful landscapes. I am submitting this legislation today in the hope that we in the Congress can recognize this significant contribution as The Garden Club of America holds its annual meeting here in our Nation's Capital. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join me in supporting this legislation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2703. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. CORZINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 95, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2704. Mr. CONRAD proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 95, supra.

SA 2705. Mr. VOINOVICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 95, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2706. Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 95, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2707. Mr. SANTORUM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 95, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2708. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 95, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.