

Whereas 30 percent of people in the United States suffering from hearing loss cite financial constraints as an impediment to hearing aid use;

Whereas hearing loss is among the most common congenital birth defects;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing the hearing loss of a newborn can affect the social, emotional, and academic development of the child;

Whereas the average age at which newborns with hearing loss are diagnosed is between the ages of 12 to 25 months;

Whereas May 2004 is National Better Hearing and Speech Month, providing Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, hearing and speech professionals, and all people in the United States an opportunity to focus on preventing, mitigating, and treating hearing impairments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of May 2004 as National Better Hearing and Speech Month;

(2) commends those States that have implemented routine hearing screenings for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital; and

(3) encourages all people in the United States to have their hearing checked regularly.

DESIGNATING MAY 2004 AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further action on S. Res. 353 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 353) designating May 2004 as "Older Americans Month."

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

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 the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 353) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 353

Whereas today's older Americans are living longer, healthier, and more productive lives than any other time in our history;

Whereas older Americans exemplify the theme of "Aging Well, Living Well" by continuing to give their time to our communities, their knowledge to our children, their experience to our workplace, and their wisdom to all of us;

Whereas there are now more than 50,000 people in the United States 100 years old or older;

Whereas more than 47 million Americans are now 60 years old or older;

Whereas the opportunities and challenges that await our Nation require our Nation to continue to commit to the goal of improving the quality of life for all older Americans; and

Whereas it is appropriate for our Nation to continue the tradition of designating the month of May as a time to celebrate the contributions of older Americans and to rededicate its effort to respect and better serve older Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2004 as "Older Americans Month"; and

(2) commends the President on the issuance of his proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that publicly reaffirm our gratitude and respect for older Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MILDRED MCWILLIAMS JEFFREY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 367, submitted earlier today by Senators STABENOW and LEVIN.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 367) honoring the life of Mildred McWilliams "Millie" Jeffrey (1910-2004) and her contributions to her community and to the United States.

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the life of a very dear friend who passed away on March 24 of this year. Millie Jeffrey is an icon in the State of Michigan and in our country for civil rights, women's rights, and worker's rights. Her life has epitomized the principles by which we all strive to live our lives—justice, equality, and compassion.

Although small in stature, Millie has been a giant among all of us who have known her. Words cannot express the depth of affection and respect in which Millie is held, nor can words quantify the lives that she has touched.

Mildred McWilliams Jeffrey, social justice activist, retired UAW Director of the Consumer Affairs Department and a Governor Emerita of Wayne State University, died peacefully surrounded by her family early this morning in the Metro Detroit area. She was 93. In 2000, President William Clinton awarded her the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award bestowed by the United States government.

In seeking world peace by ensuring equality for all, Millie spent a lifetime working on labor, civil rights, education, health care, youth employment, and recreation issues. She brought inspiration and humor to the many people she touched—and did so with optimism and undaunted spirit.

Millie's list of accomplishments and awards is long but what she is most remembered for is her zest for organizing. She mentored legions of women and men in the labor, civil rights, women's rights, and peace movements. As President Clinton noted: "Her impact will be felt for generations, and her example never forgotten."

Born in Alton, IA, on December 29, 1910, Millie was the oldest of seven chil-

dren. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1932 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and received a master's degree in social economy and social research in 1934 from Bryn Mawr College. In graduate school, she realized that to improve the lives of working women and men she would have to change the system. In the 1930s, that meant joining the labor movement.

Millie became an organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in Philadelphia and then Educational Director of the Pennsylvania Joint Board of Shirt Workers. In 1936, she married fellow Amalgamated organizer Homer Newman Jeffrey, and they traveled throughout the South and East organizing textile workers. During World War II, the Jeffreys worked in Washington, DC, as consultants to the War Labor Board, where they became close friends with Walter, Victor, and Roy Reuther.

Mildred and Newman Jeffrey moved to Detroit in 1944 when Victor Reuther offered Millie a job as director of the newly formed UAW Women's Bureau. Millie's commitment to equal rights fueled her career at the UAW. She organized the first UAW women's conference in response to the massive postwar layoffs of women production workers replaced by returning veterans. From 1949 until 1954, Millie ran the union's radio station. She moved on to direct the Community Relations Departments. She was director of the Consumer Affairs Department from 1968 until her retirement in 1976.

Millie joined the NAACP in the 1940s and marched in the South with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s. Former executive secretary of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP, Arthur Johnson, said that "in the civil rights movement, she knew how to fight without being disagreeable."

Mildred Jeffrey also was very active in the Democratic Party, preferring to work behind the scenes organizing, canvassing, consulting, and fundraising. She was the consummate strategist. Millie provided savvy advice to Democratic officeholders and presidents from JFK to Bill Clinton. Senator EDWARD KENNEDY observed, "whether it was a worker in a plant, or whether it was a Congressman or Senator or President, Millie inspired people."

As a founding member and chair of the National Women's Political Caucus, Millie supported female candidates for public office. Twenty years ago she led the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro as Walter Mondale's running mate. Most recently, Millie delighted in being represented by Michigan women she supported, Governor Jennifer Granholm, and myself. Millie is the "political godmother" for many of us, and we are extremely grateful for her love and support. Millie was one of the most important mentors in my life and I will always be very, very grateful to her.

Millie ran for public office in 1974 and was elected by the people of the State of Michigan to the Wayne State University Board of Governors, an office she held for 16 years—1974–1990. She was so proud of her role in supporting this wonderful university. She served three terms as board chair. Millie loved Wayne State University and was a long-time resident on campus. She never tired of showing visitors around her “neighborhood”—the Adamany Undergraduate Library, the Hilberry Theatre, and the Walter P. Reuther Library. Millie thrived in the academic environment enriched by Wayne State University students.

Her friendships extended worldwide across all ages and nationalities. Whether discussing math with teenagers in Wayne State’s Math Corps, or strategizing at the UN Conference on Women about the plight of sweatshop workers, Millie’s capacity for connecting with people was unmatched.

Millie’s capacity for connecting with people was unmatched. As one who traveled with her to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, it was amazing to see people from all over the world, hearing we were from Michigan, asking if we knew Millie Jeffrey and if we could tell them where she was; or that their grandmother, their aunt, suggested they meet Millie Jeffrey.

I often said the way to world peace was to let Millie loose; sooner or later, we would all know Millie Jeffrey and come to understand each other.

Millie was inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame and was an original board member of the Michigan Women’s Foundation. She served in various leadership roles in a wide variety of national and State organizations such as the Michigan Women’s Political Caucus, the Coalition for Labor Union Women, Americans for Democratic Action, National Abortion Rights Action League, Voters for Choice, EMILY’s List, and the American Civil Liberties Union. She served on the peer review board of Blue Cross and was an active member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Detroit.

She was also an adoring mother of a son and a daughter and adoring grandmother who developed and nourished creativity and curiosity in her two grandchildren who she loved dearly, Erica Jeffrey and Thomas Jeffrey. She encouraged Erica’s love of ballet. She urged Thomas to travel to learn about the world and was so proud of his AmeriCorps Service.

All of these lists of awards, duties, responsibilities, and committees do not say what Millie is all about: Millie Jeffrey was a one-of-a-kind woman of great passion, of great commitment, of great interest in knowing about each one of us and what we were doing and what we cared and how she could help.

Yesterday, 250 people came to Washington, DC, from all over the country to remember Millie and to share how Millie had touched their lives. Millie’s

life was celebrated and honored by her family and friends through photos, speech and song. Many of her friends gave heartwarming accounts on how she helped them as well as our country. As the memorial service concluded, one thing became very clear. Millie is no longer with us, but she will be with us forever because her spirit will continue in all of us.

I thank my colleagues for the support of this resolution.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Today, Mr. President, I join Senator STABENOW in introducing a resolution to celebrate and to honor the life of an extraordinary American woman, Mildred Jeffrey. Millie Jeffrey was a shining star in the firmament of our State and Nation. Her legendary courage and her incredible tenacity were an inspiration to all who came within her orbit.

Throughout her life, Millie fought tenaciously to advance civil rights and break down the racial barriers that divide us. She fought for workers’ rights, making sure that the people who make up the backbone of our business and industry are given a voice and afforded fair treatment. She was a pioneer for women’s rights, opening doors and providing opportunities for women that were merely a dream for women before her. We can all say that our world is more just and more humane because of Millie.

We couldn’t begin to count all of the people she assisted, all of the careers she helped launch, and all of the walls she broke down. She was a major force in the election of Michigan’s first female Senator and first female governor; how wonderful it is that she lived to see both Senator DEBBIE STABENOW and Governor Jennifer Granholm take office.

It is a mystery how her larger-than-life passion, energy, enthusiasm, and kindness fit into such a tiny frame. Every person who ever met with her or talked with her or felt her spirit was left with a deep sense of awe and respect for her extraordinarily good nature and her commitment to good deeds. It is a badge of honor to be able to say “I knew Millie Jeffrey.”

Millie famously said that she would retire only when she died, and she certainly lived up to that promise, working and fighting until the very end. We all wish her retirement could have been later, but her legacy and her inspiration will be a major presence in Michigan and the Nation forever.

I know all of my colleagues will join me in celebrating her life and honoring her memory.

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 the measure be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 367) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 367

Whereas Mildred McWilliams “Millie” Jeffrey, a social justice activist, a retired UAW Director of the Consumer Affairs Department, and a Governor Emerita of Wayne State University, died peacefully surrounded by her family on March 24, 2004, in the Metro Detroit, Michigan area at the age of 93;

Whereas in 2000, President Clinton awarded Millie the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award bestowed by the United States Government;

Whereas in seeking world peace by ensuring equality for all, Millie spent a lifetime working on labor, civil rights, education, health care, youth employment, and recreation issues;

Whereas Millie brought inspiration and humor to the many people she touched and did so with optimism and undaunted spirit;

Whereas Millie, a woman of influence and of great moral character, was always a voice of conscience and reason;

Whereas Millie provided a voice for those that could not be heard and hope for those that no longer believed, and because of this her legacy will continue to live on for generations to come;

Whereas Millie’s list of accomplishments and awards is long but what she is most remembered for is her zest for organizing, including mentoring legions of women and men in the labor, civil rights, women’s rights, and peace movements;

Whereas President Clinton stated that “her impact will be felt for generations, and her example never forgotten”;

Whereas Millie was born in Alton, Iowa on December 29, 1910, and was the oldest of 7 children;

Whereas in 1932 Millie graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and in 1934 Millie received a master’s degree in social economy and social research from Bryn Mawr College;

Whereas Millie became an organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and later became Educational Director of the Pennsylvania Joint Board of Shirt Workers;

Whereas in 1936, Millie married fellow Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America organizer Homer Newman Jeffrey, and they traveled throughout the South and East organizing textile workers;

Whereas during World War II, the Jeffreys worked in Washington, D.C., as consultants to the War Labor Board, where they became close friends with Walter, Victor, and Roy Reuther;

Whereas the Jeffreys moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1944 when Victor Reuther offered Millie a job as director of the newly formed UAW Women’s Bureau;

Whereas Millie’s commitment to equal rights fueled her career at the UAW;

Whereas Millie organized the first UAW women’s conference in response to the massive postwar layoffs of women production workers, who were replaced by returning veterans;

Whereas from 1949 until 1954, Millie ran the UAW’s radio station;

Whereas Millie moved on to direct the Community Relations Department of the UAW;

Whereas Millie served as Director of the Consumer Affairs Department of the UAW from 1968 until her retirement in 1976;

Whereas Millie joined the NAACP in the 1940s and marched in the South with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s;

Whereas Former Executive Secretary of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP, Arthur Johnson, said that "in the civil rights movement, she knew how to fight without being disagreeable";

Whereas Millie ran for public office in 1974 and was elected by the people of Michigan to the Wayne State University Board of Governors, an office she held for 16 years (1974-1990);

Whereas Millie served 3 terms as chair of the Wayne State University Board of Governors;

Whereas Millie loved Wayne State University and was a long-time resident on campus;

Whereas Millie never tired of showing visitors around her "neighborhood"—the Adamany Undergraduate Library, the Hilberry Theatre, and the Walter P. Reuther Library of Wayne State University;

Whereas Millie thrived in the academic environment enriched by Wayne State University students;

Whereas whether discussing mathematics with teenagers in Wayne State University's Math Corps or strategizing at the United Nations Conferences on Women about the plight of sweatshop workers, Millie's capacity for connecting with people was unmatched;

Whereas Millie was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and was an original member of the board of the Michigan Women's Foundation;

Whereas Millie served in various leadership roles in a wide variety of national and State organizations;

Whereas Millie served on the peer review board of Blue Cross;

Whereas Millie also was an active member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Detroit; and

Whereas the United States mourns the death of Mildred McWilliams "Millie" Jeffrey: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life of Mildred McWilliams "Millie" Jeffrey and her contributions to her community and to the United States; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Millie Jeffrey.

HONORING PAST AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 424, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 424) honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 424) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2451 and H.R. 4279

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask that they be read for the first time, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time, en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2451) to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to restore the application date of country of origin labeling.

A bill (H.R. 4279) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, and to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask for their second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to further proceedings of these matters, en bloc.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2728 and S. 2448

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for their second reading. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be given their second reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time, en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2728) to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for adjudicative flexibility with regard to an employer filing of a notice of contest following the issuance of a citation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; to provide for greater efficiency at the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission; to provide for an independent review of citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; to provide for the award of attorney's fees and costs to very small employers when they prevail in litigation prompted by the issuance of citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and to amend the Paperwork Reduction Act and titles 5 and 31, United States Code, to reform Federal paperwork and regulatory processes.

A bill (S. 2448) to coordinate rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 with other Federal laws.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings on the measures, en bloc, at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the rule, the bills are placed on the calendar.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES—H.R. 3550

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair appoints the following conferees on behalf of the Senate:

The Presiding Officer (Mr. Coleman) appointed Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Warner, Mr. Bond, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Nickles, Mr. Lott, Mr. Shelby, Mr. McCain, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Reid, Mr. Graham of Florida, Mr. Lieberman, Mrs. Boxer, Mr. Daschle, Mr. Hollings, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Baucus, and Mr. Conrad.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 21. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of Calendar No. 503, S. 2400, the Department of Defense authorization bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. There will be no votes tomorrow, but Senators WARNER and LEVIN will have a series of cleared amendments. Following that action, we will proceed to a period for morning business to accommodate Senators who do wish to make statements.

As I stated earlier, there will be no votes during tomorrow's session. The next vote will occur on Tuesday, June 1, the day we return from recess. I will have more to say tomorrow on the post-recess schedule.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:39 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 21, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 20, 2004:

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

EDWIN D. WILLIAMSON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE AMY L. COMSTOCK, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARK D. GEARAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR, (NEW POSITION)

LEONA WHITE HAT, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A