

Whereas the Institute has provided assistance to the Afghan judicial system by helping to locate, reproduce, translate, and distribute copies of Afghanistan's legal code, which was destroyed by the Taliban and facilitated discussions among the key institutions in the administration of criminal law and justice in Afghanistan;

Whereas the Institute assisted President Nelson Mandela with the development of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was instrumental in preventing post-apartheid bloodshed;

Whereas the Institute developed a detailed plan to handle accountability in the wake of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which became the basis for Rwandan Genocide Law, and assisted the Government of Rwanda in the implementation of the Law;

Whereas the Institute continues to work on the formation of a formal Israeli-Palestinian Joint Legal Committee to address legal issues and develop common approaches between the 2 different legal systems;

Whereas the Institute is committed to supporting religious coexistence and understanding in the Middle East, and elsewhere in the world;

Whereas the Institute has served as advisor and principal financial supporter of the Alexandria process, a group of prominent Muslim, Jewish, and Christian leaders from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Egypt, who in January 2002 produced the "Alexandria Declaration", a 7-point statement that calls, in the name of the 3 Abrahamic faiths, for the end to bloodshed in the Holy Land;

Whereas the Institute uses its convening power to bring together policymakers and experts on North Korea to discuss issues of security and proliferation on the Korean peninsula and develop policy recommendations;

Whereas the Institute is facilitating peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—a Muslim insurgent group operating in the southern island of Mindanao;

Whereas the Institute is organizing programs in Iraq to strengthen the pillars of civil society and to contribute to stabilization and post-conflict peacebuilding, including training in conflict resolution for Iraqi security officials, orientation training for personnel from the United States, grantmaking to Iraqi organizations, collaboration with Iraqi universities, support for interethnic and interreligious dialogue, and assistance with rule of law issues; and

Whereas the Institute endeavors with the support of Congress in a public-private partnership to build a permanent headquarters on the National Mall as a working center on peace, education, training in conflict management skills, and the promotion of applied programs dedicated to resolution of international conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of the founding of the United States Institute of Peace (the Institute) as a national and international resource for peaceful conflict management and looks forward to continuing to gain from its knowledge, teaching, and practical applications of conflict management as a way to promote United States security and peace in the world;

(2) recognizes that the Institute has become an important national resource for educational, training, and applied programs in the prevention, management, and resolution of international conflict;

(3) acknowledges the Institute's contribution to building the Nation's capabilities for the prevention, management, and resolution of international conflict and the advance-

ment of peace and conflict resolution education;

(4) expresses appreciation to the founding men and women of the Institute and the support from the people of the United States;

(5) congratulates the Institute on its 20th anniversary and on its achievements in fulfilling its mandate from Congress; and

(6) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Institute.

NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 401) designating the week of November 7 through November 13, 2004, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country was considered and agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 401

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas, on November 10, 2003, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation urging all the people of the United States to observe November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week of November 7 through November 13, 2004, as "National Veterans Awareness Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week of November 7 through November 13, 2004, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States to observe National Veterans Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

SMOKEY THE BEAR'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The resolution (S. Res. 404) designating August 9, 2004, as "Smokey Bear's 60th Anniversary" was considered and agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 404

Whereas Smokey Bear's service to the United States for 60 years has protected the Nation's forests above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas Smokey Bear has been dedicated to educating Americans of all ages and particularly America's youth, the future stewards of our forests, about the need for vigilance concerning forest health and wildfires;

Whereas Smokey Bear's message of vigilance can also be applied to the need (1) to remove unnatural accumulations of hazardous fuels from the public forests of the United States; (2) to clear defensible space around homes and escape routes in the wildland-urban interface; and (3) to suppress forest fires that threaten communities or valuable natural resources;

Whereas the Smokey Bear campaign is the longest running public service campaign in the history of the United States;

Whereas Smokey Bear was the first individual animal ever to be honored on a postage stamp;

Whereas the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture is committed to increasing public information and awareness about wildfires and forest protection;

Whereas the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture is devoted to changing the public's behavior concerning wildfires in an effort to maintain and protect the natural resources and wildlife of the United States; and

Whereas the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Advertising Council have provided extraordinary support and dedication to the purpose and efforts of Smokey Bear: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 9, 2004, as "Smokey Bear's 60th Anniversary"; and

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

NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 407) designating October 15, 2004, as "National Mammography Day" was considered and agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 407

Whereas according to the American Cancer Society, in 2004, 215,990 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,110 women will die from this disease;

Whereas it is estimated that about 2,000,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1990s, and that in nearly 500,000 of those cases, the cancer resulted in death;

Whereas African-American women suffer a 30 percent greater mortality from breast cancer than White women and more than a 100 percent greater mortality from breast cancer than women from Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian populations;

Whereas the risk of breast cancer increases with age, with a woman at age 70 having twice as much of a chance of developing the disease as a woman at age 50;

Whereas at least 80 percent of the women who get breast cancer have no family history of the disease;

Whereas mammograms, when operated professionally at a certified facility, can provide safe screening and early detection of breast cancer in many women;

Whereas mammography is an excellent method for early detection of localized breast cancer, which has a 5-year survival rate of more than 97 percent;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society continue to recommend periodic mammograms; and

Whereas the National Breast Cancer Coalition recommends that each woman and her health care provider make an individual decision about mammography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 15, 2004, as “National Mammography Day”; and

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

AMENDING TITLES III AND IV OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3463, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3463) to amend titles III and IV of the Social Security Act to improve the administration of unemployment taxes and benefits.

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

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 3463, the SUTA Dumping Prevention Act of 2003. This bill cleared the House on July 14 by voice vote, and was held at the desk in the Senate to facilitate its quick passage. On July 15, I introduced a companion bill with Senator KENNEDY, S. 2662, and it is cosponsored by Senators GRASSLEY, BAUCUS, ENSIGN, LEVIN, GREGG and MURRAY.

SUTA stands for State Unemployment Tax Avoidance. This bill addresses employers who have lowered their State unemployment tax rate by changing their “experience rating.” Experience rating is used to determine an employer’s unemployment tax rate. It means that companies who have laid off more workers are required to pay more in State unemployment taxes, and companies that have had fewer layoffs pay less. Experience rating provides several incentives for employers, including encouraging employers to maintain a stable workforce, and an incentive to contest claims when employees quit or are fired for cause.

This legislation cracks down on employers who intentionally avoid paying their fair share of State unemployment taxes. It prohibits shifting employees into shell companies with the sole purpose being to avoid paying the proper amount in unemployment taxes by changing their experience rating. H.R. 3463 ends this abusive practice by requiring States to deter tax rate manipulation and prevent SUTA dumping by requiring that tax rate-related unem-

ployment experience be transferred with a business once it is transferred to another employer. It also imposes penalties when the law is violated.

SUTA dumping was first exposed in December 2002 by the Labor Department’s Employment and Training Administration. Since then several States have enacted SUTA dumping legislation, including Arkansas, Maine, North Carolina and Washington. Though according to the General Accounting Office, three-fifths of State unemployment administrators indicated their State law is unable to combat the problem.

H.R. 3463 also includes language to make sure unemployment insurance payments are not fraudulently paid to people who have returned to work. The legislation includes a new hire database provision that authorizes States to access nationwide work history information to ensure that workers on a payroll are not also collecting an unemployment check.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 3463 will decrease the Federal deficit by \$499 million over 5 years and \$510 million over 10 years. The savings result from increased collections from employers who are currently engaging in SUTA dumping, and additional savings from eliminating fraudulent unemployment insurance payments to employed workers. The SUTA dumping provision will reduce the Federal deficit by \$429 million over 10 years, and the new hire database provision by \$81 million over 10 years.

These revenues will be added to unemployment trust funds, which include triggers that lower unemployment tax rates as trust fund balances rise. Enactment of H.R. 3463 promotes fairness and will lead to reduced tax rates for employers who are today overtaxed.

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 relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3463) was read the third time and passed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 221 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 221) recognizing National Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the importance and accomplishments of historically Black colleges and universities.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, with the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 221) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 221

Whereas there are 105 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities are credited with making higher education financially attainable for individuals who otherwise may not have been able to afford postsecondary education;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have significant success rates.

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide a supportive social, cultural, and racial environment for people of color who are seeking a college education;

Whereas in the United States historically Black colleges and universities have educated 75 percent of all Blacks having Ph.D.s, 46 percent of all Black business executives, 50 percent of all Black engineers, and 80 percent of all Black Federal judges;

Whereas in the United States historically Black health professional schools have trained an estimated 40 percent of all Black dentists, 50 percent of all Black pharmacists, and 75 percent of all Black veterinarians;

Whereas in the United States historically Black colleges and universities have educated an estimated 50 percent of all Black attorneys and 75 percent of all Black military officers; and

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have produced Members of the United States Congress, State legislators, writers, musicians, actors, engineers, journalists, teachers, scholars, judges, pilots, activists, business leaders, lawyers, and doctors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) fully supports the goals and ideals of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities;

(2) salutes and acknowledges historically Black colleges and universities and their presidents, faculties, staff, and trustees for their vigorous and persistent efforts in support of equal opportunity in higher education;

(3) commends the students who benefit from historically Black colleges and universities for their pursuit of academic excellence; and

(4) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 400 and the Senate