

Whereas the massive tsunami reconstruction effort in Sri Lanka creates significant challenges for the country;

Whereas the democratic process in Sri Lanka is further challenged by the refusal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a group that the Secretary of State has designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, to renounce violence as a means of effecting political change;

Whereas, on August 12, 2005, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Laksman Kadirgamar was assassinated at his home in Colombo in a brutal terrorist act that has been widely attributed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam by officials in Sri Lanka, the United States, and other countries;

Whereas democratic elections are scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka on November 17, 2005; and

Whereas the United States has an interest in a free and fair democratic process in Sri Lanka, and the peaceful resolution of the insurgency that has afflicted Sri Lanka for more than two decades: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its support for the people of Sri Lanka as they recover from the devastating tsunami that occurred on December 26, 2004, and the assassination of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Laksman Kadirgamar on August 12, 2005;

(2) expresses its support for the courageous decision by the democratically-elected Government of Sri Lanka, following the assassination of Foreign Minister Kadirgamar, to remain in discussions with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in an attempt to resolve peacefully the issues facing the people of Sri Lanka; and

(3) urges all parties in Sri Lanka to remain committed to the negotiating process and to make every possible attempt at national reconciliation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF THE SENATE ELECTION LAW GUIDEBOOK

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 325

Resolved, That the Committee on Rules and Administration shall prepare a revised edition of the Senate Election Law Guidebook, Senate Document 106-14, and that such document shall be printed as a Senate document.

SEC. 2. There shall be printed, beyond the usual number, 500 additional copies of the document specified in the first section for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 326—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 27, 2005, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 326

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas everyone on the roads and highways needs to drive more safely to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas the death of almost 43,000 people a year in more than 6 million highway crashes

in America has been called an epidemic by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta;

Whereas according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saved 15,434 lives in 2004; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to be careful about safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely during the heaviest traffic day of the year, and to publicize the importance of the day using Citizen's band (CB) radios and in truck stops across the Nation;

(C) clergy to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive particularly safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) everyone to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 27, 2005, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 327—REMEMBERING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIVES AND WORK OF MARYKNOLL SISTERS MAURA CLARKE AND ITA FORD, URSULINE SISTER DOROTHY KAZEL, AND CLEVELAND LAY MISSION TEAM MEMBER JEAN DONOVAN, WHO WERE EXECUTED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF EL SALVADOR ON DECEMBER 2, 1980

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

S. RES. 326

Whereas on December 2, 1980, 4 churchwomen from the United States, Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Cleveland Lay Mission Team Member Jean Donovan, were violated and executed by members of the National Guard of El Salvador;

Whereas in 1980, Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford were working in the parish of the Church of San Juan Bautista in Chalatenango, El Salvador, providing food, transportation, and other assistance to refugees and Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and Cleveland Lay Mission Team Member Jean Donovan were working in the parish of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in La Libertad, El Salvador, providing assistance and support to refugees and other victims of violence;

Whereas these 4 churchwomen from the United States dedicated their lives to working with the poor of El Salvador, especially women and children left homeless, displaced, and destitute by the Salvadoran civil war;

Whereas these 4 churchwomen from the United States joined the more than 70,000 civilians who were murdered during the course of the Salvadoran civil war;

Whereas on May 23 and May 24, 1984, 5 members of the National Guard of El Salvador, including Subsergeant Luis Antonio

Colindres Aleman, Daniel Canales Ramirez, Carlos Joaquin Contreras Palacios, Francisco Orlando Contreras Recinos, and Jose Roberto Moreno Canjura, were found guilty by the Salvadoran courts of the executions of the churchwomen and were sentenced to 30 years in prison, marking the first case in the history of El Salvador where a member of the Salvadoran Armed Forces was convicted of murder by a Salvadoran judge;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on the Truth for El Salvador was established under the terms of the historic January 1992 Peace Accords that ended El Salvador's 12 years of civil war and was charged to investigate and report to the Salvadoran people on human rights crimes committed by all sides during the course of the civil war;

Whereas in March 1993, the United Nations Commission on the Truth for El Salvador found that the execution of the 4 churchwomen from the United States was planned and that Subsergeant Luis Antonio Colindres Aleman carried out orders from a superior to execute them, and that then Colonel Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, then Director-General of the National Guard and his cousin, Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Edgardo Casanova Vejar, then Commander of the Zacatecoluca military detachment where the murders were committed, and other military personnel knew that members of the National Guard had committed the murders pursuant to orders of a superior and that the subsequent coverup of the facts adversely affected the judicial investigation into the murders of the 4 churchwomen from the United States;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on the Truth for El Salvador determined that General Jose Guillermo Garcia, then Minister of Defense, made no serious effort to conduct a thorough investigation of responsibility for the murders of the churchwomen;

Whereas the families of the 4 churchwomen from the United States continue their efforts to determine the full truth surrounding the murders of their loved ones, appreciate the cooperation of United States Government agencies in disclosing and providing documents relevant to the churchwomen's murders, and pursue requests to release to the family members the few remaining undisclosed documents and reports pertaining to this case;

Whereas the families of the 4 churchwomen from the United States appreciate the ability of those harmed by violence to bring suit against Salvadoran military officers in United States courts under the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991 (28 U.S.C. 1330);

Whereas the lives of these 4 churchwomen from the United States have, for the past 25 years, served as inspiration for and continue to inspire Salvadorans, Americans, and people throughout the world to answer the call to service and to pursue lives dedicated to addressing the needs and aspirations of the poor, the vulnerable, and the disadvantaged, especially among women and children;

Whereas the lives of the 4 churchwomen from the United States have also inspired numerous books, plays, films, music, religious events, and cultural events;

Whereas schools, libraries, research centers, spiritual centers, health clinics, women's and children's programs in the United States and in El Salvador have been named after or dedicated to Sisters Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan;

Whereas the Maryknoll Sisters, headquartered in Ossining, New York, the Ursuline Sisters, headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, numerous religious task forces in the United States, and the Salvadoran and

international religious communities based in El Salvador annually commemorate the lives and martyrdom of the 4 churchwomen from the United States;

Whereas the historic January 1992 Peace Accords ended 12 years of civil war and have allowed the Government and the people of El Salvador to achieve significant progress in creating and strengthening democratic, political, economic, and social institutions; and

Whereas December 2, 2005, marks the 25th anniversary of the deaths of these 4 spiritual, courageous, and generous churchwomen from the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers and commemoates the lives and work of Sisters Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, and Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan;

(2) extends sympathy and support for the families, friends, and religious communities of the 4 churchwomen from the United States;

(3) continues to find inspiration in the lives and work of these 4 churchwomen from the United States;

(4) calls upon the people of the United States and religious congregations to participate in local, national, and international events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of the 4 churchwomen from the United States;

(5) recognizes that while progress has been made during the post-war period, the work begun by the 4 churchwomen from the United States remains unfinished and social and economic hardships persist among many sectors of Salvadoran society; and

(6) calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other Government departments and agencies to continue to support and collaborate with the Government of El Salvador and with private sector, non-governmental, and religious organizations in their efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and to promote educational opportunity, health care, and social equity for the people of El Salvador.

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT OF 1975 AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF CONGRESS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT SO THAT ALL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVE A FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 328

Whereas the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142) was signed into law 30 years ago on November 29, 1975, and amended the State grant program under part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act;

Whereas the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 established the Federal priority of ensuring that all children, regardless of the nature or severity of their disability, have available to them a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment;

Whereas the Education of the Handicapped Act was further amended by the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (Public Law 99-457) to create a preschool grant program for children with disabilities aged 3 through 5 and an early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities under 3 years of age and their families;

Whereas the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-476) renamed the Education of the Handicapped Act as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (referred to in this resolution as “IDEA”) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas IDEA currently serves an estimated 269,000 infants and toddlers, 679,000 preschoolers, and 6,000,000 children aged 6 to 21;

Whereas IDEA has helped reduce the number of children with developmental disabilities who must live in State institutions away from their families;

Whereas the number of children with disabilities who complete high school with standard diplomas has grown significantly since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas more students with disabilities are participating in national and State testing programs, and graduation rates for students with disabilities are continuously rising, since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas the number of children with disabilities who enroll in college as freshmen has more than tripled since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas IDEA promotes partnerships between parents of children with disabilities and education professionals in the design and implementation of the special education and related services provided to children with disabilities;

Whereas the integration of students with disabilities in the classroom, learning alongside their peers without disabilities, has heightened the Nation’s awareness of the needs and capabilities of students with disabilities;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-446) reauthorizes IDEA and ensures that children with disabilities are guaranteed a quality education based on the high academic standards required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110);

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 strengthens IDEA’s focus on the educational results of children with disabilities and better prepares those children for further education beyond high school or employment;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 further enables special education teachers, related services providers, other educators, and State and local educational agencies to focus on promoting the academic and functional achievement of children with disabilities;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 places a new priority on providing students with disabilities with positive behavioral supports through school-wide interventions;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 enables students with disabilities, through the power of technology, to achieve better educational

outcomes and enhance independent living skills;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 protects the procedural safeguards that guarantee the rights of children with disabilities to a free and appropriate public education while establishing mechanisms for parents and schools to resolve disagreements about educational planning and the implementation of such planning, thus reducing unnecessary litigation;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 continues to ensure that all students with disabilities receive the services and supports necessary in order to achieve positive educational outcomes in both public and private educational settings;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ensures that the vast majority of IDEA funds will go directly to the classroom and provides States and local educational agencies additional flexibility to provide for the costs of educating high need children with disabilities;

Whereas IDEA has supported, through its discretionary programs, 3 decades of research, demonstration, and personnel preparation in effective practices for educating children with disabilities, enabling teachers, related services providers, and other educators to effectively meet the educational and developmental needs of all children;

Whereas Federal and State governments support effective, research-based practices in the classroom to ensure appropriate services and supports for children with disabilities; and

Whereas IDEA continues to marshal the resources of this Nation to implement the promise of full participation in society for children with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142);

(2) acknowledges the many and varied contributions of children with disabilities and their parents, teachers, related services providers, and other educators; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) so that all children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution that recognizes the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the predecessor to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, to commemorate its passage, commend its many authors, and suggest some actions we should take to protect, preserve, and advance its legacy as a vital component of our laws on education and civil rights.

On November 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, a landmark piece of legislation that reflected America’s fundamental and continuing concern for education and human rights. This legislation reaffirmed the most basic values of our democracy by extending education and civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. As we celebrate the anniversary of the IDEA’s enactment, it is, like all anniversaries, an appropriate time to both recount the past and contemplate the future.