

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2005.

PN173 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL A. MINK, and ending LOUANN RICKLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2005.

PN175 MARINE CORPS nomination of Eloise M. Fuller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2005.

PN176 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning JOHN T. CURRAN, and ending THOMAS J. JOHNSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2005.

IN THE NAVY

PN61 NAVY nomination of STEVEN P. DAVITO, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2005.

PN62 NAVY nomination of EDWARD S. WAGNER JR., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2005.

PN63 NAVY nominations (36) beginning SAMUEL ADAMS, and ending RANDY J. VANROSSUM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2005.

PN133 NAVY nominations (14) beginning JASON K. BRANDT, and ending RONALD L. WITTHROW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL OF S. 70 AND S. 69

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 70 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 69 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN MOLDOVA

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DAY"

CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER RAFIQ HARIRI

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 60, S. Res. 61, S. Res. 62, and S. Res. 63, which were submitted earlier today, en bloc; that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 60, S. Res. 61, S. Res. 62, and S. Res. 63) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 60

Whereas, on August 27, 1991, Moldova declared independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas parliaments were elected in Moldova in free and fair multiparty elections during 1990, 1994, and 1998;

Whereas international observers stated that the May 2003 local elections for mayors and regional councilors, despite scattered reports of irregularities, were generally consistent with international election standards;

Whereas Freedom House, a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to advance the expansion of political and economic freedom, has designated Moldova's political environment as "partly free" and, using a scale of 1 to 7 (with 1 being the most free), assigned a rating of 3 for political rights in Moldova and 4 for civil liberties in Moldova;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which administrative action, violence, intimidation, or detention do not hinder the parties, political associations, and candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to potential voters;

Whereas, in a genuinely democratic election, parties and candidates are free to organize supporters and conduct public meetings and events;

Whereas ensuring that parties and candidates enjoy unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a nondiscriminatory basis is fundamental to a free, fair, and democratic election;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote and to seek and acquire information upon which to make an informed vote in a manner that is free from intimidation, undue influence, attempts at vote buying, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas Moldova is scheduled to conduct parliamentary elections on March 6, 2005;

Whereas reports indicate that national and local officials in Moldova are increasing their control and manipulation of the media as the election date approaches;

Whereas there have been widespread reports of harassment of opposition candidates and workers by the police in Moldova;

Whereas other reports indicate that intimidation of independent civil society monitoring groups by authorities in Moldova is occurring on an increasingly frequent basis;

Whereas such actions are inconsistent with Moldova's history of the holding of free and fair elections and raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the authorities in Moldova to conducting free and fair elections;

Whereas the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 6, 2005 will provide a test of the extent to which the Government

of Moldova is committed to democracy, free elections, and the rule of law; and

Whereas the holding of truly free and fair elections in Moldova, including a free and democratic campaign preceding an election, are vital to improving the relationship between Moldova and the United States and to the United States providing support for resolution of the Transnistria conflict and for the provision of assistance to Moldova through the Millennium Challenge Account: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Moldova since Moldova declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 27, 1991;

(2) recognizes that a precondition for the full integration of Moldova into the Western community of nations is the establishment of a genuinely democratic political system in Moldova;

(3) supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Moldova;

(4) encourages all political parties in Moldova to offer genuine solutions to the serious problems that face Moldova, including human trafficking, corruption, unemployment, and territorial issues;

(5) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the people of Moldova to establish full democracy, including the rule of law and respect for human rights;

(6) urges the Government of Moldova to meet its commitments to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for the holding of democratic elections;

(7) urges the Government of Moldova to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on March 6, 2005;

(B) the right to vote for all citizens of Moldova;

(C) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a nondiscriminatory basis; and

(D) the right of opposition candidates and workers to engage in campaigning free of harassment, discrimination, and intimidation; and

(8) pledges its enduring support and assistance to the people of Moldova for the establishment of a fully free and open democratic system that is free from coercion, the creation of a prosperous free market economy, the establishment of a secure independence, and Moldova's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

S. RES. 61

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association was founded and incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the 26th day of December, 1930;

Whereas the founders of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association possessed the leadership and vision to establish a single voice for the ready mixed concrete industry;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association represents and acts on behalf of the industry before all divisions of government and those public and private organizations whose work affects the ready mixed concrete business;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has been a pioneer in the field of concrete technology through groundbreaking research and advanced scientific methods in the practical use and applications of ready mixed concrete;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has gained national distinction by developing innovative breakthroughs in engineering, aggressive market promotion, and its contribution toward the creation of the first undergraduate degree in concrete industry management in the United States;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association leads the concrete industry through its education and certification programs;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association today represents 1,300 producer member companies, both national and multinational, that employ thousands of workers and operate in every congressional district in the United States;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association continues today to assist producers in the ready mixed concrete community through the introduction of innovative safety procedures, modern health initiatives, and progressive environmental control programs in an effort to enhance the performance level of the industry; and

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association will continue to look toward the future by forging alliances within the ready mixed community, and by becoming more educated in business operations and more knowledgeable about the product and the role of ready mixed concrete in the construction and building of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association for its 75 year history and its contributions to the construction of the infrastructure of the United States, including homes, buildings, bridges, and highways;

(2) recognizes that the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has been and will continue to be an invaluable asset in developing the history and character of the United States; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association as an expression of appreciation and for public display at the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's 2005 national convention.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my honor to submit today a resolution congratulating the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association on reaching a historic milestone—its 75th anniversary. The NRMCA entered this world in 1930 when the Nation was facing some trying times. The country was suffering from a deep economic depression and midwestern farmers were struggling through a drought. Still, many people were flocking to the movies to see "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "Cimarron," which went on to win the Academy Award for best picture. Golfer Bobby Jones won both the British Open and the U.S. Open and in Pennsylvania, a group of men met to officially form the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

The founders of the NRMCA wanted to establish a single voice for the ready mixed concrete industry to represent the industry before all levels of government. They wanted the NRMCA to set product quality standards for the entire ready mixed concrete industry, without governmental intervention or mandates.

If you were to ask the founders today about the progress of their National

Ready Mixed Concrete Association, I am certain the founders would be proud of the association's accomplishments and the quality of the ongoing work.

While the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association continues to represent the ready mixed industry, it has also become the leader in the practical use and applications of ready mixed concrete, a pioneer in the development and implementation of its education and certification programs, and a strong hand reaching out to ready mixed concrete State associations, ready mixed producers, and other members across the country.

In my State, the Oklahoma Ready Mixed Concrete Association has a close working relationship with the NRMCA. These benefits can be felt across the State as the use of ready mixed concrete continues to increase. In the latest data, Oklahoma ready mixed production hit 5,440,000 cubic yards by the end of 2003. That is an increase of more than 1 million cubic yards from just 7 years earlier when ready mixed concrete production was at 4,206,000 cubic yards.

The growing use of ready mixed concrete has spurred a host of new ready mixed concrete companies and businesses in the State and made the ones already in existence even stronger. People in Oklahoma know some of the names of the ready mixed companies just by the names on the side of the concrete trucks traveling on the roads and highways. Familiar names include:

Adair: Arkhola Sand & Gravel Co., Stillwell, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tahlequah, OK.

Alfalfa: Alva Concrete, Alva, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Enid, OK; Enid Concrete Co., Inc., Enid, OK; Kimball/Fairview Ready Mix, Inc., Fairview, OK.

Atoka: Harold's Redi Mix, Lehigh, OK; Joe Brown Co., Inc., Atoka, OK; Rustin Concrete Company, Atoka, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester, OK.

Beckham: Dolese Bros. Co., Elk City, OK. Blaine: B & W Ready Mix, Inc., Watonga/Okeene, OK; Ogle Ready Mix, Inc., Kingfisher, OK.

Bryan: Dolese Bros. Co., Durant, OK; Rustin Concrete Company, Durant, OK.

Caddo: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Chickasha, OK; Carnegie Concrete Company, Carnegie, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Anadarko, OK.

Canadian: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Tuttle, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., El Reno/Piedmont/Yukon, OK; Ensey Concrete & Construction, Oklahoma City, OK; Ogle Ready Mix, Inc., Kingfisher, OK; Schwarz Ready Mix, Inc., El Reno, OK—Yukon, OK—Piedmont, OK; Sooner Ready Mix, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK.

Carter: Day Concrete & Block Company, Ardmore, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Ardmore, OK.

Cherokee: Arkhola Sand & Gravel Co., Tahlequah, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tahlequah, OK—Muskogee.

Choctaw: Rustin Concrete Company, Hugo, OK.

Cleveland: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Tuttle, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Moore/Norman, OK; Ensey Concrete & Construction, Oklahoma City, OK; Perma Ready Mix, Newalla, OK; Schwarz Ready Mix, Inc., Norman, OK; Sooner Ready Mix, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK.

Coal: Harold's Redi Mix, Lehigh, OK; Jennings Stone Co., Inc., Ada, OK; Dolese Bros.

Co., Ada, OK; Rustin Concrete Company, Atoka, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester, OK.

Comanche: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Cache/Lawton, OK; Lawton Transit Mix, Inc., Lawton, OK; Southwest Ready Mix, Lawton, OK.

Cotton: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Duncan—Duncan, Cache/Lawton, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Duncan, OK; Lawton Transit Mix, Inc., Lawton, OK; Southwest Ready Mix Lawton, OK.

Craig: Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Vinita, OK.

Creek: Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Tulsa, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tulsa, OK.

Custer: Dolese Bros. Co., Clinton, OK—Weatherford, OK.

Delaware: Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Grove, OK; NEO Concrete & Materials (DBA Green Country Concrete), Grove, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tahlequah, OK.

Dewey: Kimball Ready Mix, Inc., Seiling, OK.

Garfield: Dolese Bros. Co., Enid, OK; Enid Concrete Co., Inc., Enid, OK.

Garvin: L.A. Jacobson, Inc., Pauls Valley, OK—Lindsay, OK; Wynnewood, OK.

Grady: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Chickasha, OK—Tuttle, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Chickasha, OK; Sooner Ready Mix, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK; Schwarz Ready Mix, Inc., Tuttle, OK.

Grant: Dolese Bros. Co., Enid, OK; Enid Concrete Co., Inc., Enid, OK; PC Concrete Company, Inc., Ponca City, OK.

Greer: Altus Ready Mix, Altus/Hobart, OK; Southwest Ready Mix, Altus, OK.

Harmon: Altus Ready Mix, Altus, OK; Southwest Ready Mix, Altus, OK.

Haskell: Arkhola Sand & Gravel Co., Webbers Falls, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester—Stigler, OK; Wilburton, OK. Hughes: Van Eaton Ready Mix, Holdenville, OK.

Jackson: Altus Ready Mix, Altus, OK; Southwest Ready Mix, Altus, OK.

Jefferson: Dolese Bros. Co., Waurika, OK. Johnston: Jennings Stone Co., Inc., Ada, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Tishomingo, OK.

Kay: PC Concrete Company, Inc., Ponca City, OK.

Kingfisher: Ogle Ready Mix, Inc., Kingfisher, OK; Schwarz Ready Mix, Inc., Okarche, OK.

Kiowa: Carnegie Concrete Company, Carnegie, OK; Altus Ready Mix, Altus/Hobart, OK.

Latimer: Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester—Wilburton, OK; Poteau—Stigler, OK.

Leflore: Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Poteau, OK—Stigler, OK; Wilburton, OK.

Lincoln: Dolese Bros. Co., Stillwater, OK; Kerns Ready Mixed Concrete, Stillwater, OK; Perma Ready Mix, Newalla, OK; Stillwater Concrete & Materials, Inc., Stillwater, OK; Block Sand Company, McLoud, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Shawnee, OK; Van Eaton Ready Mix, Shawnee, OK.

Logan: Dolese Bros. Co., Guthrie, OK; Ogle Ready Mix, Inc.

Love: Dolese Bros. Co., Marietta, OK.

Major: Kimball Ready Mix, Inc., Fairview, OK.

Marshall: Dolese Bros. Co., Madill, OK; Rustin Concrete Company Madill, OK.

Mayes: Kemp Stone Company, Inc., Pryor, OK; Mayes County Petroleum Pryor, OK; Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Pryor, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tahlequah—Tulsa, OK.

McClain: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Newcastle, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Newcastle, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Blanchard, OK; L.A. Jacobson, Inc., Purcell, OK; Sooner Ready Mix, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK.

McCurtain: Rustin Concrete Company, Broken Bow, OK—Idabel, OK, Valliant, OK.

McIntosh: Foresee Ready Mix Concrete, Eufaula, OK—Checotah, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester—Muskogee, OK, Stigler, OK.

Murray: Dolese Bros. Co., Davis, OK—Sulphur, OK.

Muskogee: Arkhola Sand & Gravel Co., Webbers Falls, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Muskogee, OK—Tahlequah Tulsa, OK.

Noble: Perry Ready Mix, Inc., Perry, OK.

Nowata: Bartlesville Redi-Mix, Inc., Bartlesville, OK; Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Vinita, OK.

Okfuskee: Van Eaton Ready Mix, Holdenville, OK.

Oklahoma: Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc., Tuttle, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Oklahoma City/Edmond/Midwest City, OK; Ensey Concrete & Construction, Oklahoma City/Midwest City, OK; Goddard Ready Mixed Concrete, Oklahoma City/Choctaw/Midwest City, OK; Perma Ready Mix, Newalla, OK; Schwarz Ready Mix, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK—Edmond, OK; Sooner Ready Mix, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK.

Okmulgee: Okmulgee Ready Mix Concrete Co., Twin Cities Ready Mix, Tulsa, OK.

Osage: Bartlesville Redi-Mix, Inc., Bartlesville, OK; Black Gold Concrete Skiatook, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tulsa, OK.

Ottawa: NEO Concrete & Materials (DBA Miami Concrete), Miami, OK; NEO Concrete & Materials (DBA Fairland Ready Mix), Fairland, OK.

Pawnee: Perry Ready Mix, Inc., Perry, OK.

Payne: Dolese Bros. Co., Stillwater, OK;

Kerns Ready Mixed Concrete, Stillwater, OK.

Pittsburg: Dolese Bros. Co., McAlester, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester, OK—Wilburton, OK.

Pontotoc: Jennings Stone Co., Inc., Ada, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Ada, OK; L.A. Jacobson, Inc., Stratford, OK.

Pottawatomie: Block Sand Company, McLoud, OK; Ensey Concrete & Construction, Dolese Bros. Co., Shawnee, OK; Perma Ready Mix, Newalla, OK; Van Eaton Ready Mix, Inc., Shawnee, OK.

Pushmataha: Rustin Concrete Company, Antlers, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., McAlester, OK—Wilburton, OK.

Roger Mills: Dolese Bros. Co., Elk City, OK.

Rogers: A & M Concrete, Inc., Catoosa, OK; Black Gold Concrete, Skiatook, OK; Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Collinsville, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tulsa, OK.

Seminole: Dolese Bros. Co., Seminole, OK. Sequouah: Arkhola Sand & Gravel Co., Sallisaw, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Muskogee, OK—Tahlequah, Poteau, OK.

Stephens: Atlas-Tuck Concrete Co., Inc., Duncan/Marlow, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Duncan, OK.

Tillman: Atlas-Tuck Concrete Co., Inc., Frederick, OK.

Tulsa: Black Gold Concrete, Skiatook, OK; J & J Sand Co., Broken Arrow, OK; Rainbow Concrete Company, Div. APAC—Okla., Inc., Tulsa/Bixby, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tulsa, OK; Viking Concrete Company, Broken Arrow, OK.

Wagoner: A & M Concrete, Inc., Catoosa, OK; Greenhill Materials, Catoosa, OK; Ark River Sand of Oklahoma, Coweta, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Muskogee, OK—Tahlequah, Tulsa, OK.

Washington: Bartlesville Redi-Mix, Inc., Bartlesville, OK; Black Gold Concrete, Skiatook, OK; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc., Tulsa, OK.

Washita: Carnegie Concrete Company, Carnegie, OK; Dolese Bros. Co., Cordell, OK.

Woods: Alva Concrete Alva, OK.

Producer members of the Oklahoma Ready Mixed Concrete Association include: A & M Concrete, Inc.; Altus Ready-Mix, Inc.; Alva Concrete; Arkhola Sand & Gravel Co.; Atlas-Tuck Concrete, Inc.; B & W Ready Mix, L.L.C.; Bartlesville Redi-Mix, Inc.; Black Gold Concrete; Block Sand Company, Inc.; Carnegie Concrete Company; Day Concrete & Block Co.; Dolese Bros. Co.; Enid Concrete Company; Foresee Ready Mix Concrete, Inc.; Goddard Concrete Co., Inc.; Jennings Stone Co., Inc.; Kerns Ready Mixed Concrete, Inc.; Kimball Ready Mix, Inc.; L.A. Jacobson, Inc.; Lawton Transit Mix, Inc.; NEO Concrete & Materials, Inc.; DBA Fairland Ready-Mix; NEO Concrete & Materials, Inc.; DBA Green Country Concrete; NEO Concrete & Materials, Inc.; DBA Miami Concrete; Ogle Ready Mix, Inc.; Okmulgee Ready Mix Concrete Co.; PC Concrete Company, Inc.; Perma Ready Mix; Perry Ready-Mix, Inc.; Rustin Concrete Company; Schwarz Ready Mix, Inc.; Sooner Ready Mix, L.L.C.; Southwest Ready Mix; Stillwater Concrete & Materials, Inc.; Twin Cities Ready Mix, Inc.; Van Eaton Ready Mix, Inc.

In fact, these ready mixed concrete companies operating in the State today help Oklahoma grow.

All along, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has been in the forefront serving as a single voice for the industry.

I have had a close relationship with the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ever since I was elected to Congress in 1986. It is in this spirit that I offer this resolution congratulating the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association on its 75th anniversary.

S. RES. 62

Whereas Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, is the world's first service club and 1 of the largest nonprofit service organizations;

Whereas there are more than 1.2 million Rotary International club members comprised of professional and business leaders in more than 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries;

Whereas the Rotary International motto, "Service Above Self", inspires members to provide humanitarian service, meet high ethical standards, and promote international good will;

Whereas Rotary International funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries;

Whereas in 1985, Rotary International launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts with the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to immunize the children of the world against polio;

Whereas polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988, and the world now stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease;

Whereas Rotary International is the largest privately-funded source of international scholarships in the world and promotes international understanding through scholarships, exchange programs, and humanitarian grants;

Whereas since 1947, more than 35,000 students from 110 countries have studied abroad as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars;

Whereas Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program has helped more than 46,000 young professionals explore career fields in other countries;

Whereas 8,000 secondary school students each year experience life in another country

through Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program;

Whereas over the past 5 years, members of Rotary International in all 50 States have hosted participants in Open World, a program sponsored by the Library of Congress, and therefore have earned the honor of serving as Open World's most outstanding host;

Whereas there are approximately 400,000 Rotary International club members in more than 7,700 clubs throughout the United States sponsoring service projects to address critical issues such as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad; and

Whereas February 23, 2005, would be an appropriate date on which to observe Rotary International Day; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Rotary International; and

(2) recognizes Rotary International for 100 years of service to improving the human condition in communities throughout the world.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I offer this resolution, S. Res. 62, celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. I am pleased to have Senator STEVENS and Senator OBAMA join me in submitting this resolution.

From a small gathering of friends in Chicago on February 23, 1905, Rotary International has grown to become one of the largest non-profit service organizations in the world. There are approximately 400,000 Rotarians in the United States, and 1.2 million members worldwide.

Rotarians have undertaken countless projects, large and small, to improve the well-being of communities around the world. They have promoted international exchange and learning as a means of building goodwill and understanding between nations.

In 1985, Rotary International began working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF toward a bold goal: to eliminate polio from the earth.

Since then, Rotarians have contributed over half a billion dollars toward the global effort to eradicate polio, and their dedication and commitment is paying off. Since 1988, the number of polio cases in the world has dropped by 99 percent. The world now stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease.

Winston Churchill reminded us, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." With this resolution, we honor the century of service that the men and women of Rotary International have given. I look forward to continuing to work with them in the years ahead.

S. RES. 63

Whereas on February 14, 2005, Rafiq Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, was assassinated in a despicable terrorist attack; Whereas the car bomb used in the assassination killed 16 others and injured more than 100 people;

Whereas the intent of the terrorists who carried out the assassination was to intimidate the Lebanese people and push Lebanon backward toward chaos;

Whereas Rafiq Hariri served as Prime Minister of Lebanon for a total of 10 years since the end of the Lebanese war in 1991;

Whereas Rafiq Hariri helped revitalize the economy of Lebanon and rebuild its shattered infrastructure and pioneered and directed the rebirth of Beirut's historic downtown district;

Whereas Rafiq Hariri stepped down as Prime Minister on October 20, 2004;

Whereas Syria maintains at least 14,000 troops and a large number of intelligence personnel in Lebanon;

Whereas there is widespread opposition in Lebanon to the continuing Syrian presence in Lebanon;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a Presidential Statement (February 15, 2005) condemning the terrorist bombing that killed Rafiq Hariri and calling on "the Lebanese Government to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this heinous terrorist act";

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (September 2, 2004) calls for the political independence and sovereignty of Lebanon, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon;

Whereas Syria is the main supporter of the terrorist group Hezbollah, the only significant remaining armed militia in Lebanon;

Whereas Hezbollah supports Palestinian terrorist groups and poses a threat to the prospects for peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) was enacted into law on December 12, 2003; and

Whereas the President has recalled the United States Ambassador to Syria for urgent consultations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the cowardly and despicable assassination of Rafiq Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon;

(2) extends condolences to Prime Minister Hariri's family and the people of Lebanon;

(3) supports United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (September 2, 2004), which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon;

(4) urges the President to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution that establishes an independent investigation into the assassination;

(5) urges the President to consider imposing sanctions under the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note); and

(6) supports the call of the Lebanese people for an end to Syria's presence in Lebanon, and for free and fair elections monitored by international observers.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, my resolution, S. Res. 63, calls for an international investigation into Monday's assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon. The resolution also urges the President to take steps to pressure Syria to leave Lebanon.

I am pleased that Senators LUGAR, REID, LEVIN, DODD, CORZINE, ALLEN, and CHAFEE have joined in co-sponsoring this resolution.

The despicable murder of Rafiq Hariri has deprived Lebanon of a dedicated and effective leader.

It also is an attempt at intimidating the Lebanese people and pushing the country backward toward chaos. It must not succeed.

In Lebanon and beyond, many suspect that Syria is responsible. That's understandable—Syria has an exten-

sive intelligence and military presence in Lebanon, its opposition to Hariri is well known, and it continues to play a destabilizing role in Lebanese affairs.

Syria must get out of Lebanon—now.

Prime Minister Hariri's emergence as an opponent to Syrian meddling in Lebanon was seen as a serious threat in Damascus. The fact that he was a Muslim holding such opinions was even more problematic, as this reflects the spread of anti-Syrian sentiment in recent years beyond the Maronite Christian community.

Cooperation across confessional lines in Lebanon complicates the ability of Syria to maintain its grip over Lebanese affairs.

That is why Syria forced Prime Minister Hariri to resign last October. And that is why Syria, through its Lebanese allies, had been trying to dilute Hariri's influence by redrawing electoral districts ahead of parliamentary elections due later this Spring.

The resolution I have introduced condemns the assassination, extends condolences to Mr. Hariri's family and the Lebanese people; it demands that Syria immediately withdraw its troops and intelligence personnel from Lebanon; it urges the President ask the United Nations Security Council to go beyond Tuesday's statement condemning the assassination by passing a resolution establishing an independent investigation.

I would add parenthetically that many in Lebanon are skeptical of an investigation that would be carried out by a government they perceive as taking its orders from Syria.

The resolution urges the President to consider imposing additional sanctions under the Syria Accountability Act.

Finally, it supports the call of the Lebanese people for an end to Syria's presence in Lebanon, and for free and fair elections for parliament this Spring monitored by international observers.

Mr. President, I'd like to add a word about what this resolution does not do. It does not in any way, shape, or form even hint at supporting the use of force against Syria.

I think it is important to state that clearly, given the mistrust of many in Congress over the administration's intentions after the mishandling of Iraq.

The intent of this resolution is to encourage the President to work with the international community to investigate the assassination and to use diplomatic pressure for Syria to leave Lebanon.

In fact, this tragic incident offers an opportunity to work closely with France. It was French-U.S. cooperation which resulted in the passage of a United Nations Security Council resolution last September calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. And just yesterday President Chirac made a personal visit to Lebanon to console Hariri's family. I commend him for this important gesture.

I urge President Bush to use his meeting with President Chirac on Mon-

day to coordinate the next diplomatic steps.

If France were to recall its Ambassador to Syria, the rest of Europe would follow France's lead. If France and the United States together called for a United Nations Security Council resolution to establish an independent investigation, I believe such a resolution would pass. Such cooperation would send a signal more powerful to the Syrians than any unilateral U.S. moves.

Given the lingering mistrust between Europe and the U.S. over Iraq, France may at first be hesitant. That is why I believe President Bush should engage personally with President Chirac to develop a joint diplomatic strategy and to dispel any apprehensions about our intentions.

Mr. President, Rafiq Hariri's assassination was about more than the murder of one leader. It was an attempt to kill the hopes and aspirations for freedom in Lebanon.

There are those who argue that we have no national interest in the independence of Lebanon. Given our bitter experiences in Lebanon, I can understand their apprehensions. But I disagree that we have no interest in Lebanese independence.

The Syrian presence in Lebanon enables the terrorist group Hezbollah to continue to operate as the only significant armed militia 14 years after the end of the Lebanese civil war. Hezbollah enables Syrian and Iranian hardliners to try and derail renewed hopes for Israeli-Palestinian peace. Based on my recent meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, it is clear that Hezbollah, through its support for Palestinian terrorist groups, is seen as a significant threat to a fragile peace process.

That is why I believe we do have an important interest in diminishing Syria's involvement in Lebanon.

At this moment, it is essential that the forces of terror hear a unified voice from the civilized world. They must not be seen as succeeding, lest they are emboldened to take even more aggressive action in other arenas. Instead, Monday's attack must be seen as a decisive setback for Syria and its allies.

I urge the President and the Secretary of State to act quickly on the recommendations offered in this resolution.

Rafiq Hariri's death must not be in vain, and the Lebanese people whom he served deserve answers—and action.

Let us hope that this barbarous murder marks the beginning of the end of Syria's presence and interference in Lebanon.

I yield the floor.

DESIGNATING THE YEAR 2005 "THE YEAR OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY"

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further