

implementation by Russia of its commitment to withdraw its remaining military forces from Moldova;

Whereas Secretary of State Colin Powell stated at the December 2004 OSCE Ministerial in Sofia, Bulgaria, that "Russia's commitments to withdraw its military forces from Moldova, and to agree with Georgia on the duration of the Russian military presence there, remain unfulfilled. A core principle of the CFE Treaty is host country agreement to the stationing of forces. The United States remains committed to moving ahead with ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty, but we will only do so after all the Istanbul commitments on Georgia and Moldova have been met. And we stand ready to assist with reasonable costs associated with the implementation of those commitments.";

Whereas since June 2004, Russia has called for the closure of the OSCE Border Monitoring Operation (BMO), the sole source of objective reporting on border crossings along the border between Georgia and with the Russian republics of Chechnya, Dagestan, and Ingushetia;

Whereas OSCE border monitors took up their mission in Georgia in May 2000, and prior to the failure to extend the mandate for the BMO in December 2004, OSCE border monitors, who are unarmed, were deployed at nine locations along that border;

Whereas the current rotation of the BMO includes 65 border monitors from 23 countries, including Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States;

Whereas at the December 2004 OSCE Ministerial, Russia blocked renewal of the mandate for the BMO in Georgia;

Whereas Russia has stated that the BMO has accomplished nothing, but it has in fact accomplished a great deal, including observing 746 unarmed and 61 armed border crossings in 2004 and serving as a counterweight to inflammatory press reports;

Whereas in response to Russian complaints about the cost-effectiveness of the BMO, the OSCE agreed in December 2004 to cut the number of monitors and thereby reduce the cost of the BMO by almost half;

Whereas the BMO began shutting down on January 1, 2005;

Whereas the staff of the BMO is now dismantling facilities and is not performing its mission;

Whereas the shutdown of the BMO will become irreversible in the second half of March 2005 and is currently scheduled to be completed by May 2005;

Whereas the United States has reiterated its disappointment over the failure of the Permanent Council of the OSCE to reach consensus on renewing the mandate of the BMO, despite request of Georgia, the host country of the BMO, that the OSCE continue the border monitoring operation, and the consensus of all states but one to extend the mandate for the BMO; and

Whereas United States Ambassador to the OSCE, Stephan M. Minikes, said in a statement to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on January 19, 2005, that "we believe that the closure of the BMO would remove a key source of peaceful relations and of objective reporting on events at the sensitive border and increase the likelihood of heightened Russia-Georgia tensions."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should—

(1) urge Russia to live up to its commitments at the 1999 Organization for Security

and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Summit in Istanbul regarding Georgia and Moldova;

(2) in cooperation with its European allies, maintain strong diplomatic pressure to permit the OSCE Border Monitoring Operation (BMO) in Georgia to continue; and

(3) if the BMO ceases to exist, seek, in cooperation with its European allies, an international presence to monitor objectively border crossings along the border between Georgia and the Russian republics of Chechnya, Dagestan, and Ingushetia.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to consider S. Res. 71.

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. 71) designating the week beginning March 13, 2005 as National Safe Place Week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I will not object, but I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor to this resolution.

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Craig amendment be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 139) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: to strike the request for a Presidential proclamation in the National Safe Place Week resolution)

In Section (2), strike "requests that the President issue a proclamation calling" and replace with "calls".

The resolution (S. Res. 71), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 71

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas the Safe Place program combines the efforts of the private sector and non-

profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas the Safe Place program provides a direct way to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach and community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas more than 700 communities in 41 states and more than 14,000 locations have established Safe Place programs;

Whereas more than 75,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist; and

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 13 through March 19, 2005 as "National Safe Place Week" and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

EXPANDED MUSEUM COMPLEX AT YAD VASHEM

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 79 submitted earlier today by Senators CORZINE and LAUTENBERG.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 79) expressing the sense of the Senate in marking the dedication on March 15, 2005, of the expanded museum complex at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Israel, in furtherance of Yad Vashem's mission to document the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, to preserve the memory and story of each of the victims, impart the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations, and recognize the Righteous Among the Nations.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 79) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 79

Whereas 6,000,000 Jews were slaughtered in the Holocaust solely because of the faith into which they were born;

Whereas the Holocaust is seared into the world's memory as the quintessential expression of the evil of anti-Semitism;

Whereas Yad Vashem has become the world's university devoted to exposing the evil of anti-Semitism;

Whereas Yad Vashem's archives contain the largest and most comprehensive repository of material on the Holocaust in the world, containing 62,000,000 pages of documents, nearly 267,500 photographs, thousands of films and videotaped testimonies of survivors, and the Righteous Among the Nations (non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish people during the Holocaust), all accessible to the public;

Whereas those archives are the witness to both inexplicable acts of cruelty and daily acts of courage;

Whereas the history of the Holocaust, as embodied at Yad Vashem, represents the depths to which humanity can descend and the heights to which it can soar;

Whereas to ensure that Holocaust commemorations in future generations among both Jews and non-Jews have relevance and meaning, Yad Vashem has undertaken an extraordinary expansion of its facilities;

Whereas the centerpiece of this expansion is the new Holocaust History Museum building designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie;

Whereas a central role in bringing the Holocaust History Museum to fruition was played by Holocaust survivor Joseph Wilf of New Jersey and his family;

Whereas through this new museum, Yad Vashem honors the lives of the victims and the Righteous Among the Nations in perpetuity;

Whereas the unique buildings and archives of Yad Vashem ensure that we, our children, and their children will never forget; and

Whereas the Israeli Knesset established Yad Vashem in 1953, founded on the biblical injunction set forth in Isaiah, chapter 56, verse 5: "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (a 'yad vashem') . . . an everlasting name which shall not perish," and, for more than 50 years, Yad Vashem has steadfastly fulfilled this purpose: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) Yad Vashem as a trustee of the World's conscience, so that the meaning of "never again" becomes the living foundation of our collective humanity; and

(2) that March 15, 2005, the date of the dedication of Yad Vashem's expanded facilities, is a date of historical significance that will be remembered as such by future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FERN HOLLAND

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 80, submitted earlier today by Senators LANDRIEU and MURKOWSKI.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 80) honoring the life of Fern Holland and expressing the deepest condolences of the Senate to her family on their loss.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the anniversary of the death of a young woman whose courage

and willingness to help others should inspire us all. Fern Holland, who was murdered near the Iraqi city of Karbala at the age of 33 a year ago today, lived her life to create the most equal and just global society obtainable. In light of International Women's Day, which was yesterday, I think it is only fitting that we honor the life of someone who led the fight to protect women throughout the world. Fern Holland realized the importance of helping others early in her life, which is exemplified by the path she chose.

There are hundreds of people whose lives have been touched by Fern Holland and I believe her legacy will live long beyond her years on Earth. In the January before her death Holland wrote in an e-mail to her former boss, Tulsa lawyer Stephen Rodolf. "I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing—working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups.

I urge my colleagues to remember Fern Holland when they have lost the strength to continue to work for the good of all people. We must diligently work to sustain the passion Fern Holland possessed. As a living memorial to her, I challenge each of my colleagues to continue to work for a better future for all people, particularly those without their own voice. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to her family who are feeling this loss more than anyone else.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and use this day as a time to remember Fern Holland's extraordinary life and to use her example to recommit ourselves to the better good of all people.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without any intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 80) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 80

Whereas the Senate remembers with great sadness the murder of Fern Holland near the Iraqi city of Karbala at the age of 33 on March 9, 2004;

Whereas Fern Holland, born in Bluejacket, Oklahoma, on August 5, 1970, lived her life committed to creating the most equal and just global society possible;

Whereas Fern Holland graduated with honors in psychology at Oklahoma University and actively sought to help the world through caring for children dying of nuclear-related diseases in Russia and teaching kids in a squatter camp in South Africa;

Whereas in the spring of 2000, Fern Holland worked for the Peace Corps as a human rights legal advisor in West Africa;

Whereas in 2003, Fern Holland went to investigate alleged human rights violations for

the American Refugee Committee at a refugee camp in Guinea where she established a legal clinic to seek justice for victims of human rights violations, and which, at the time of her death in 2004, had handled 118 cases on behalf of victims of human rights violations;

Whereas in May 2003, Fern Holland went to Iraq as a United States Agency for International Development employee to work for women's rights;

Whereas in Iraq, Fern Holland organized human rights groups, opened 6 women's centers in south Baghdad, and acted as a strong advocate for Iraqi women's rights;

Whereas after Fern Holland's death, leading feminists from the National Organization for Women, the Feminist Majority Foundation, and the National Council of Women's Organizations issued statements praising her work;

Whereas residents of the refugee camp in Guinea renamed the legal clinic Fern Holland established the "Fern Holland Legal Aid Clinic of Nzerekore";

Whereas the high school Fern Holland attended in Miami, Florida observed a moment of silence and then discussed a memorial to honor her;

Whereas the Cherokee Nation honored Fern Holland by passing a resolution saying she "died as a warrior";

Whereas Fern Holland was posthumously named a Heroic Oklahoman on April 7, 2004, by Governor Brad Henry; and

Whereas Fern Holland devoted her brief life to promoting her belief in basic human rights and the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that, in Fern Holland, the World has lost one of its most devoted and hard working human rights activists;

(2) honors Fern Holland in her extreme dedication to making the world a better place; and

(3) expresses its deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of Fern Holland on their loss.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTION OF CHRIS LEDOUX TO COUNTRY MUSIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 81, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 81) recognizing the contribution of Chris LeDoux to country music.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great singer/songwriter, rodeo champion and true cowboy, Chris LeDoux. Sadly, Chris passed away on March 9 at the age of 56 in Casper, WY.

Chris was a loyal son, devoted husband and loving father. As a member of an air force family, Chris lived in many places throughout his childhood. He finally found his home in Wyoming while a sophomore in high school. In 1972, he married his lovely wife Peggy in Kaycee, WY, where he eventually built his ranch and fathered five wonderful children.