

and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN339 ARMY nomination of Thanh Minh Do, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN340 ARMY nomination of Lorine Lagatta, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN341 ARMY nomination of Gary Zeitz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN397 ARMY nominations (67) beginning SUNNY S.* AHN, and ending ERIC W.* YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2005.

PN425 ARMY nominations (22) beginning LISA M. AMOROSO, and ending SAMUEL L. YINGST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2005.

PN426 ARMY nominations (43) beginning STEVEN B.* ANDERSON, and ending COLIN S.* TURNNIDGE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2005.

PN427 ARMY nominations (130) beginning CHRISTOPHER B.* ACKERMAN, and ending CHARLES D. ZIMMERMAN JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2005.

PN428 ARMY nominations (134) beginning HERMAN A. ALLISON, and ending HEATHER L. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2005.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN316 MARINE CORPS nomination of William L. Rumble, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2005.

PN342 MARINE CORPS nomination of Amy V. Dunning, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN343 MARINE CORPS nomination of David J. Wilson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN344 MARINE CORPS nomination of Michael Akselrud, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

PN345 MARINE CORPS nominations (52) beginning CHARLES R. BAUGHN, and ending PHILLIP J. WOODWARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2005.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Daniel Fried, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS

COMMENDING THE VIRGINIA RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the following resolutions submitted earlier today: S. Res. 128, S. Res. 129, S. Res. 130, and S. Res. 131.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the measures en bloc.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to support an important resolution designating the 30th day of April 2005 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans."

Nations throughout the world, and especially within Latin America, celebrate Día de los Niños on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children. Many American Hispanic families continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day by celebrating Día de los Niños in their homes.

The designation of a day to honor the children of the Nation will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community. This special recognition of children will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on their future, articulate their dreams and aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities. This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Joining me as original cosponsors to this resolution are JOHN CORNYN, CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, MEL MARTINEZ, and LISA MURKOWSKI.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in promptly passing this resolution designating April 30, 2005, Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I rise, on behalf of myself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. KENNEDY, to support a bipartisan resolution calling on the American people to observe North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, May 1 through May 7, 2005. This week is designed to increase the awareness and importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace. I introduced a similar resolution in May 2002, and I am proud to sponsor it again.

The focus of this year's North American Occupational Safety and Health

Week is on the estimated 5,500 people killed in workplace accidents and the millions who suffer on-the-job injuries and illnesses each year. The week will focus on preventing such tragedies from occurring and draw attention to the positive return on investment for businesses that invest in occupational safety and health.

The Department of Labor recently gave the Monsanto research facility in Waterman, IL, its top safety classification: Star Certification in the Voluntary Protection Program. VPP is a program that goes beyond current workplace regulations to establish cooperative relationships between management and workers to implement a comprehensive health and safety system. It requires rigorous review by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and involves companies with injury rates which average about 53 percent lower than the average for their industry.

OSHA also recognized three Illinois beef packing companies for their exemplary injury and illness records. Aurora Packing Company, Inc., of North Aurora, New City Packing Company, Inc., of Aurora, and Prairie Packaging Company of Bridgeview were commended by OSHA's VPP. Aurora and New City have achieved Star Conditional status for 11 years now, and Prairie was recognized this year as a Merit Participant. Fewer than 1,000 Federal worksites under Federal jurisdiction share this honor and I am very proud of their accomplishments. The Labor Department says VPP sites are "models for what employers and employees can accomplish by working cooperatively with one another and with OSHA to achieve a level of worker protection that goes beyond compliance with Government regulations." The VPP program is a win-win situation for everyone because workers experience fewer illnesses and injuries, and companies can expect lower workers' compensation costs. While there is more work to be done to improve the health and safety of America's workers, I congratulate these firms for their achievements.

The American Society of Safety Engineers, based in Des Plaines, IL, is a major proponent of North American Occupational Health and Safety Week and has sponsored this awareness week for many years. ASSE is the world's oldest and largest professional safety organization. It is a 90-year-old non-profit association and has more than 30,000 members. It is committed to protecting people, property, and the environment. Together with OSHA, ASSE will be working to educate employees, employers and the public about the positive benefits of occupational safety and health programs; raise the awareness of the role and contribution of safety, health, and environmental professionals; and reduce workplace injuries and illness by increasing awareness and implementation of safety and health programs.

In addition to ASSE, the Canadian Society of Safety Engineers, the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers, the American Industrial Hygiene Association and the American National Standards Institute are all working toward the goal of a safer, healthier, working America and support this resolution.

In support of that goal, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to submit today with my friend and colleague Senator SPECTER a bipartisan resolution to designate May 15, 2005, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Joining us in the introduction of this resolution are Senators HATCH, BIDEN, BROWNBACK, CORNYN, DEWINE, DURBIN, FEINGOLD, FEINSTEIN, KENNEDY, KOHL, KYL, and SCHUMER.

This is the ninth year running that I have been involved in the introduction of this resolution to keep alive in the memory of all Americans the sacrifice and commitment of those law enforcement officers who lost their lives serving their communities. For 8 years I introduced this resolution with my old friend and our former colleague Senator Campbell, a former deputy sheriff who was a true leader on this issue. Now I have teamed with Senator SPECTER, a former prosecutor who has witnessed first-hand the risks faced by law enforcement officers every day while they serve and protect our communities. His knowledge and experience in this area is a true asset to the American people and I thank him for his leadership on it.

I also want to thank each of our Nation's brave law enforcement officers for their unwavering commitment to the safety and protection of their fellow citizens. They are real-life heroes, too many of whom too often give the ultimate sacrifice, and they remind us of how important it is to support and respect our state and local police officers.

Currently, more than 850,000 men and women who guard our communities do so at great risk. Each year, 1 in 15 officers is assaulted, 1 in 46 officers is injured, and 1 in 5,255 officers is killed in the line of duty in the United States every other day. After the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, 72 peace officers died while trying to ensure that their fellow citizens in those buildings got to safety. That act of terrorism resulted in the highest number of peace officers ever killed in a single incident in the history of our country.

In 2004, 154 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty, well below the decade-long average of 169 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when a total of 237 officers were killed. A number of factors contributed to this reduction including better equipment and the increased use

of bullet-resistant vests, improved training and advanced emergency medical care. And, in total, more than 17,500 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice—of that number 42 are police officers who have already been killed in 2005 while serving in the line of duty.

In the 108th Congress, we shepherded into law a number of measures to issues to make a difference in the lives of all police officers and the communities they serve. We improved the Justice Department's Public Safety Officers Benefits Program by making law the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act, P.L. No. 108-182, which allows survivors of public safety officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes while participating in non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activities to qualify for Federal survivor benefits.

Also becoming law was the Campbell-Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, P.L. No. 108-372, which extends through fiscal year 2007 the authorization of appropriations for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program that helps State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers. I hope that with the help of this program we can make sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

Last year, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, which Senator Campbell and I championed in the Senate, was signed into law, P.L. No. 108-277. This measure established national measures of uniformity and consistency to permit trained and certified on-duty, off-duty or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in most situations so that they may respond immediately to crimes across State and other jurisdictional lines, as well as to protect themselves and their families from vindictive criminals.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day will provide the people of the United States with the opportunity to honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by our police forces. More than 25,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington to join with the families of their fallen comrades. I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting passage of this important bipartisan resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to, the resolutions 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 were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 128

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños", or "Day of the Children" on the 30th of April, in

recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas 1 in 4 Americans is projected to be of Hispanic descent by the year 2050, and as of 2003, approximately 12,300,000 Hispanic children live in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year, and Hispanic dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"—a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2005, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, and especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.

S. RES. 129

Whereas 2005 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Retail Merchants Association (referred to in this resolution as the "Association");

Whereas on May 12 1905, the Association was formed to encourage, stimulate, extend, and promote the business of retail merchants in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to promote the social, moral, and financial welfare of those engaged in the business of retail merchandising;

Whereas the Association has endeavored to curtail trade abuses in the retail industry and other injurious practices and to secure the cooperation of consumers, retail merchants, and retail suppliers in producing healthy retail trade;

Whereas the Association has worked to secure the enactment of reasonable and proper laws to protect consumers and the retail and services trade;

Whereas it is the goal of the Association to encourage proper and business-like methods in the conduct of business affairs and to advance, by legitimate and fair means, the interests of retail merchants and the free enterprise system;

Whereas, in 1905, the Association chartered the Lynchburg Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1906, the Association chartered the Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond;

Whereas, in 1907, the Association chartered the Petersburg Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1913, the Association chartered the Hampton Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1919, the Association chartered the Danville Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in the 1950s, the Association chartered the Franklin County Retail Merchants Association and the Williamsburg Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in subsequent years, the Association chartered the South Boston Retail Merchants Association and Charlottesville Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1978, the Association formed the Virginia Retail Political Action Committee or VARPAC;

Whereas the Association and its retail member associations represent more than 5,400 retailers and other associated businesses throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

Whereas the Association has been an active proponent of the free enterprise system for 100 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Virginia Retail Merchants Association on its 100th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes its years of service to the retail community.

S. RES. 130

Whereas every year more than 5,500 people die from job-related injuries and millions more suffer occupational injuries and illnesses;

Whereas every day millions of people go to and return home from work safely due, in part, to the efforts of many unsung heroes, such as occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners, who work day in and day out identifying hazards and implementing safety and health advances, in all industries and at all workplaces, aimed at

eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses;

Whereas these occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals work to prevent accidents, injuries, and occupational diseases, create safer work and leisure environments, develop safer products, and are committed to protecting people, property, and the environment;

Whereas the work of these professionals in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, and wellness programs contributes greatly to the improvement of overall employee health, increased productivity, and reduction in health care costs, and yields significant returns on investments in occupational safety and health for the employer;

Whereas our society has long recognized that a safe and healthy workplace positively impacts employee morale, health, and productivity;

Whereas the more than 150,000 combined members of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM), the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (AAOHN), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners committed to protecting people, property, and the environment;

Whereas the purpose of "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)" is to increase the understanding of the benefits of investing in occupational safety and health, to demonstrate the positive impact that integrating effective safety and health programs in the workplace and the community has on the economy and business, to raise awareness of the role and contribution of safety, health, and environmental professionals in all areas, and to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by increasing awareness and implementation of safety and health programs; and

Whereas during the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, and throughout the year, the ASSE, ACHMM, AAOHN, AIHA, and ANSI, and their respective memberships, will work to raise employers', employees', and the public's understanding of the importance of occupational safety, health, and the environment in everyone's lives, and to provide valuable information and resources aimed at decreasing further workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, as "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)";

(2) commends occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals for their ongoing commitment to protecting people, property, and the environment;

(3) encourages all industries, organizations, community leaders, employers, and employees to support educational activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace during the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, and throughout the year; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)" with appropriate programs and activities.

S. RES. 131

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 850,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front line in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 154 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty during 2004, which is below the decade-long average of 169 deaths annually;

Whereas a number of factors contributed to this reduction in deaths, including better equipment and the increased use of bullet-resistant vests, improved training, longer prison terms for violent offenders, and advanced emergency medical care;

Whereas every other day, 1 out of every 9 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 25 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 6,000 peace officers is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States; and

Whereas on May 15, 2005, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C. to join with families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 15, 2005, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

NATIONAL BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the HELP committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 121 and the Senate now proceed to its 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. 121) supporting May 2005 as National Better Hearing and Speech Month and commending those states that have implemented routine hearing screening for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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 resolution (S. Res. 121) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 121

Whereas the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that approximately 28,000,000 people in the United States experience hearing loss or have a hearing impairment;

Whereas 1 out of every 3 people in the United States over the age of 65 have hearing loss;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of people in the United States with hearing loss would benefit from the use of a hearing aid and fewer than 7,000,000 people in the United States use a hearing aid;

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