

in the Quadrennial Defense Review of 1997. Mr. President, 1997—that was 4 years before September 11. At that time, with the previous base-closing rounds, these base-closing commissions were required to make a 6-year outlook for the potential threats and anticipated threats—6 years. Now, with this base-closing round, it requires 20 years. But even with 6 years out, they could not even discern a threat to our homeland security. They mentioned it in the Quadrennial Defense Review of 1997, but it was a fourth-tier concern. And that was 4 years out from September 11—4 years out from September 11.

Nineteen days after September 11, we had another quadrennial defense review issued by the Department of Defense. Al-Qaida wasn't even mentioned in that quadrennial defense review. It wasn't even mentioned 19 days after September 11.

So I think that gives you a measure of the understanding that the Department of Defense has not had an accurate or reliable determination of potential threats this country could face—not even 4 years out, not even 19 days after September 11—to the degree that al-Qaida was a threat to this country. That is the problem, Mr. President. We do not have an accurate picture.

This base-closing round is required to ascertain the threat environment and projecting 20 years out. Mind you, over the last more than 10 years, all throughout the nineties, when we had the World Trade Center bombing, Khobar Towers, Kenya, and Tanzania, all throughout that decade—and we had the USS *Cole* in 2000—there was only one time in that decade there was a mention of homeland security in any fashion. I think that is pretty telling.

So the fact that the Department of Defense cannot bring forward the information that validates or invalidates their assumptions and conclusions is particularly troubling in this threat environment. I regret we are in the situation today of having to beg, plead, and persuade to try to get some glimmer into the insights, into the documentation evaluation they made in reaching these final conclusions. More than anything else, the statute requires those to be making the case before the Base Closing Commission to determine how the Department of Defense deviated substantially from the criteria. How are we to know, if they don't depend upon the very department who makes the decision, has the information, and has yet to transmit them forthwith to all of the respective delegations and officials who are given the opportunity to make the case before the Base Closing Commission?

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 154—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 21, 2005 AS “NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY”

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 154

Whereas according to the American Cancer Society, in 2005, 212,930 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,410 women will die from this disease;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 21, 2005, as “National Mammography Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution designating October 21, 2005, as “National Mammography Day.” I might note that I have submitted a similar resolution each year since 1993, and on each occasion the Senate has shown its support for the fight against breast cancer by approving the resolution.

Each year, as I prepare to submit this resolution, I review the latest information from the American Cancer Society about breast cancer. For the year 2005, it is estimated that slightly more than 211,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and slightly more than 40,000 women will die of this disease.

In past years, I have often commented on how gloomy these statistics were. But as I review how these numbers are changing over time, I have come to the realization that it is really

more appropriate to be optimistic. The number of deaths from breast cancer is actually stable or falling from year to year. Early detection of breast cancer continues to result in extremely favorable outcomes: 97 percent of women with localized breast cancer will survive 5 years or longer. New digital techniques make the process of mammography much more rapid and precise than before. Government programs will provide free mammograms to those who can't afford them, as well as Medicaid eligibility for treatment if breast cancer is diagnosed. Just a few weeks ago, the headline on the front page of the Washington Post trumpeted a major improvement in survival of patients with early breast cancer following use of modern treatment regimens involving chemotherapy and hormone therapy. Information about treatment of breast cancer with surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy has exploded, reflecting enormous research advances in this disease. So I am feeling quite positive about our battle against breast cancer. A diagnosis of breast cancer is not a death sentence, and I encounter long-term survivors of breast cancer nearly daily.

In recent times, the newspapers have been filled with discussion over whether the scientific evidence actually supports the conclusion that periodic screening mammography saves lives. It seems that much of this controversy relates to new interpretations of old studies, and the relatively few recent studies of this matter have not clarified this issue. Most sources seem to agree that all of the existing scientific studies have some weaknesses, but it is far from clear whether the very large and truly unambiguous study needed to settle this matter definitively can ever be done.

So what is a woman to do? I do not claim any expertise in this highly technical area, so I rely on the experts. The American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force all continue to recommend periodic screening mammography, and I endorse the statements of these distinguished bodies.

On the other hand, I recognize that some women who examine these research studies are unconvinced of the need for periodic screening mammography. However, even those scientists who do not support periodic mammography for all women believe that it is appropriate for some groups of women with particular risk factors. In agreement with these experts, I encourage all women who have doubts about the usefulness of screening mammography in general to discuss with their individual physicians whether this test is appropriate in their specific situations.

So my message to women is: have a periodic mammogram, or at the very least discuss this option with your own physician.

I know that some women don't have annual mammograms because of either fear or forgetfulness. It is only human

nature for some women to avoid mammograms because they are afraid of what they will find. To those who are fearful, I would say that if you have periodic routine mammograms, and the latest one comes out positive, even before you have any symptoms or have found a lump on self-examination, you have reason to be optimistic, not pessimistic. Such early-detected breast cancers are highly treatable.

Then there is forgetfulness. I certainly understand how difficult it is to remember to do something that only comes around once each year. I would suggest that this is where "National Mammography Day" comes in. On that day, let's make sure that each woman we know picks a specific date on which to get a mammogram each year, a date that she won't forget: a child's birthday, an anniversary, perhaps even the day her taxes are due. On National Mammography Day, let's ask our loved ones: pick one of these dates, fix it in your mind along with a picture of your child, your wedding, or another symbol of that date, and promise yourself to get a mammogram on that date every year. Do it for yourself and for the others that love you and want you to be part of their lives for as long as possible.

And to those women who are reluctant to have a mammogram, I say let National Mammography Day serve as a reminder to discuss this question each year with your physician. New scientific studies that are published and new mammography techniques that are developed may affect your decision on this matter from one year to the next. I encourage you to keep an open mind and not to feel that a decision at one point in time commits you irrevocably to a particular course of action for the indefinite future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in the ongoing fight against breast cancer by cosponsoring and voting for this resolution to designate October 21, 2005, as "National Mammography Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 155—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2005, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK" TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS TO THE COUNTRY

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BOND, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. THOMAS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 155

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, on November 9, 2004, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation urging all the people of the United States to observe November 7 through November 13, 2004, as "National Veterans Awareness Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 6 through November 12, 2005, as "National Veterans Awareness Week"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate educational activities.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week that includes Veterans' Day, corresponding this year to November 6–12, 2005, be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week". This marks the sixth year in a row that I have submitted such a resolution, which has been adopted unanimously by the Senate on all previous occasions.

The purpose of National Veterans Awareness Week is to serve as a focus for educational programs designed to make students in elementary and secondary schools aware of the contributions of veterans and their importance in preserving American peace and prosperity. This goal takes on particular importance and immediacy this year as we find ourselves again with uniformed men and women in harm's way in foreign lands.

Why do we need such an educational effort? In a sense, this action has become necessary because we are victims of our own success with regard to the superior performance of our armed forces. The plain fact is that there are just fewer people around now who have had any connection with military service. For example, as a result of tremendous advances in military technology and the resultant productivity increases, our current armed forces now operate effectively with a personnel roster that is one-third less in size than just 15 years ago. In addition, the success of the all-volunteer career-oriented force has led to much lower turnover of personnel in today's military than in previous eras when conscrip-

tion was in place. Finally, the number of veterans who served during previous conflicts, such as World War II, when our military was many times larger than today, is inevitably declining.

The net result of these changes is that the percentage of the entire population that has served in the Armed Forces is dropping rapidly, a change that can be seen in all segments of society. Whereas during World War II it was extremely uncommon to find a family in America that did not have one of its members on active duty, now there are numerous families that include no military veterans at all. Even though the Iraqi war has been prominently discussed on television and in the newspapers, many of our children are much more preoccupied with the usual concerns of young people than with keeping up with the events of the day. As a consequence, many of our youth still have little or no connection with or knowledge about the important historical and ongoing role of men and women who have served in the military. This omission seems to have persisted despite ongoing educational efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations.

This lack of understanding about military veterans' important role in our society can have potentially serious repercussions. In our country, civilian control of the armed forces is the key tenet of military governance. A citizenry that is oblivious to the capabilities and limitations of the armed forces, and to its critical role throughout our history, can make decisions regarding our military involvement that may have unexpected and unwanted consequences. Even more important, general recognition of the importance of those individual character traits that are essential for military success, such as patriotism, selflessness, sacrifice, and heroism, is vital to maintaining these key aspects of citizenship in the armed forces and even throughout the population at large.

The failure of our children to understand why a military is important, why our society continues to depend on it for ultimate survival, and why a successful military requires integrity and sacrifice, will have predictable consequences as these youngsters become of voting age. Even though military service is a responsibility that is no longer shared by a large segment of the population, as it has been in the past, knowledge of the contributions of those who have served in the Armed Forces is as important as it has ever been. To the extent that many of us will not have the opportunity to serve our country in uniform, we must still remain cognizant of our responsibility as citizens to fulfill the obligations we owe, both tangible and intangible, to those who do serve and who do sacrifice on our behalf.

The importance of this issue was brought home to me several years ago by Samuel I. Cashdollar, who was then