

The VICE PRESIDENT. The chair appoints the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, on the part of the Senate to count electoral votes.

TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. FRIST. I send a concurrent resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 for the 108th Congress.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed do.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) reads as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 3, 2005, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (108th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 4, 2005, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (108th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have 13 unanimous consent requests which have been cleared on the other side. The requests are the routine requests agreed to at the beginning of each Congress and include the allocation of leader time, floor privileges, the filing of reports, and the like. I now ask unanimous consent that the requests be agreed to en bloc and that the requests be printed separately as part of the RECORD.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The unanimous consent requests agreed to en bloc are as follows:

1. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate;

2. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7½ minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes;

3. That during the 109th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate;

4. That the Majority and Minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal;

5. That the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives and his five assistants be given the privileges of the floor during the 109th Congress;

6. That, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed;

7. That the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 109th Congress to file reports during adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed;

8. That, for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to House bills or resolutions;

9. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment, the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions;

10. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal Clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate such staff members as space allows;

11. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day; and

12. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

13. That it not be in order to introduce bills or resolutions until January 24, 2005.

FINAL ASCERTAINMENT OF ELECTORS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate communications from the Archivist of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, certified copies of the final ascertainment of the Electors for President and Vice

President, which are ordered to lie on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK SOUTH ASIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, AND AFRICA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the United States Senate and the people of the United States for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and other areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, on December 26, 2004.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution and its preamble are considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 4), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 4

Whereas on December 26, 2004, a tremendous earthquake, registered at 9.0 on the Richter scale and centered 100 miles off the coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a deadly tsunami that swept throughout the Indian Ocean and beyond, devastating cities, towns, and communities, and killing or injuring persons in Southeast Asia and South Asia, through the island nations of the region, to Eastern Africa;

Whereas, as a result of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami, more than 140,000 people have lost their lives to date, tens of thousands of people are injured or missing, and the final death toll could climb into the hundreds of thousands;

Whereas the victims also include thousands of nationals who were visiting the region when the tsunami hit, including significant numbers from Europe and North and South America;

Whereas millions of people throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia have been left without food, shelter, or clean water, and now face deadly diseases such as cholera, dengue fever, dysentery, malaria, and typhoid;

Whereas thousands of children have been killed or injured, by this disaster;

Whereas, as a result of this tragedy, thousands of children have been separated from their families or orphaned and are in need of re-unification or adoption;

Whereas whole coastal communities and cities throughout the region were obliterated;

Whereas recovery, reconstruction, and clean-up of the devastated areas likely will take years, billions of dollars, and the concerted leadership of the United States working together with the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States immediately responded and expressed their sympathy and concern by sending financial aid and other assistance currently totaling more than \$100,000,000, through nongovernmental organizations and other means, to the victims of this disaster, and by offering to volunteer in the disaster rescue, recovery, and rebuilding;

Whereas soon after the earthquake and tsunami hit the region, the United States

Government expressed its condolences and invoked six disaster declarations for the nations hardest hit by this natural disaster, thus triggering the release of emergency funding to these countries;

Whereas less than 24 hours after these tragedies became known, the United States announced an initial pledge of \$15,000,000 for emergency humanitarian assistance, which was increased to \$35,000,000 in the following days as the scope of the tragedy unfolded;

Whereas President George W. Bush also dispatched more than 20 United States military cargo and patrol aircraft, redirected a Marine expeditionary unit and a carrier task force, and deployed several hundred United States military personnel to the region to assist with the disaster response, recovery, and delivery of relief supplies;

Whereas, in response to an early appeal by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for \$7,500,000, the United States provided \$4,000,000 for the distribution of emergency shelter materials and other relief commodities, and provided more than 3,000 metric tons of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for use in the affected region;

Whereas President George W. Bush has established a regional core group with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the Netherlands, with the United Nations, to help coordinate relief efforts, and sent a senior delegation of experts, led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to meet with regional leaders and international organizations to assess what additional aid can be provided by the United States;

Whereas on December 31, 2004, President Bush increased the United States pledge to \$350,000,000 in aid and stated that the United States' contributions to disaster relief and recovery "will continue to be revised as the full effects of this terrible tragedy become clearer";

Whereas pledges of assistance from all international organizations, multilateral development banks, and governments, including the United States, now exceed \$2,000,000,000; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2005, the President appointed former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort to elicit greater relief and assistance to the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck cities, towns, and communities throughout Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, and the region on December 26, 2004;

(2) conveys its most sincere condolences to the families, communities, and governments of the more than 140,000 people that lost their lives in this terrible natural disaster;

(3) expresses its gratitude and respect for the courageous and committed work of all aid and relief personnel, including United States military personnel, who are saving lives and providing relief assistance in the devastated areas of the region;

(4) supports President George W. Bush's pledge of \$350,000,000 in direct financial assistance, and tens of millions of dollars in additional indirect assistance through the dispatch of United States military aircraft, naval vessels, and personnel, and through the United States Government's substantial voluntary and annual contributions to international organizations and bodies;

(5) commends the ongoing international relief effort that includes the work of individual countries, numerous international or-

ganizations, and various relief and other nongovernmental entities;

(6) reaffirms that the United States Government is committed to providing relief and assistance in the most effective and efficient means possible, and will continue to assess, anticipate, and provide further assistance as needed in the weeks and months ahead;

(7) recognizes that the support of the United States Government will be greatly supplemented by private donations and assistance from thousands of United States citizens, charitable organizations, religious groups, and corporations that routinely provide generous and significant amounts of aid, support, and volunteers; and

(8) fully supports the long-term commitment and engagement of the United States to provide financial aid and other forms of direct and indirect assistance to the countries and peoples of the region impacted by the powerful earthquake and the devastating tsunami.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on the morning of December 26, one of the worst catastrophes the world has ever seen slammed the coast of Southeast Asia, South Asia, and eastern Africa.

Deep in the Indian Ocean, an enormous earthquake, estimated at a magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale—possibly one of the most powerful earthquakes ever in history—caused a devastating tsunami which has now killed over 150,000 people, seriously injuring another half a million, and displacing as many as 5 million individuals from their demolished homes.

Thousands of people were literally washed out to sea as the enormous wall of water, traveling at speeds of up to 500 miles per hour in the open ocean, struck the coasts of the Indian Ocean Rim. As those waves receded, they took with them whole towns and villages. They took with them families on holiday, fishermen at sea, and children who had gone down to the beach that morning to play.

One only begins to comprehend the enormity of the tragedy as the individual stories emerge, as they have over the last several days, such as the father who helped his daughter climb on to the roof of their hotel and drowned in his act of heroism or the 13-year-old boy who held his grandmother afloat as long as he could before she succumbed to the waves.

The tragedy continues for these already devastated people. Survivors now face the "disaster after the disaster"—the risk of death from cholera, dysentery, malaria, typhoid, and diarrhea, all potentially on an epidemic scale. The lack of potable water and potential emergence of waterborne illnesses pose an enormous public health threat.

In the last week, I have spent hours on the phone with ambassadors from the affected countries, with senior U.S. officials and private citizens, to help coordinate some of those relief efforts. I am gratified—overwhelmed, in fact—by the generosity and commitment so many people have shown at every level, from local communities to our Government. Their outpouring of support and concern is truly remarkable.

One friend of mine, Carl Lindner, has a son who is putting together medical

and relief supplies on a 747 charter to India this week.

Franklin Graham and my friends from Samaritan's Purse are in the field right now with assessments and are investing heavily through Samaritan's Purse, especially in rural areas that are far from airports or far from towns or far from those areas we can reach as easily.

Condoleezza Rice and our U.S. officials are working tirelessly to coordinate our efforts.

Fred Smith's company, FedEx, is transporting 150,000 pounds of Pedialyte formula donated by Ross Labs. The shipment was loaded onto a FedEx aircraft yesterday morning in Columbus, Ohio, and should arrive in Sri Lanka tomorrow.

And, of course, the American people have shown extraordinary compassion and sympathy and empathy. By their own initiative, private individuals and charities and nongovernment organizations and businesses have raised millions of dollars to aid the tsunami victims. I am filled with admiration for the compassion demonstrated by our fellow citizens.

As we return to Congress, we will act quickly on a clean tsunami supplemental. President Bush announced on Friday that America has pledged \$350 million in relief assistance, with \$15 million already speeding toward the hands of relief organizations in the affected countries. The administration will continue to revise this number as the full extent of the disaster becomes known.

American military ships, airplanes, and helicopters are right now delivering food. Over 48 helicopters right now are operating, delivering these medical supplies and food and water. Medicine, tents, water, ladders, food—all being delivered through the compassion of the international community. We have more than 20 patrol and cargo aircraft that have been made available to assess the disaster and deliver relief supplies. Twelve thousand of our men and women in uniform are working around the clock right now to reach survivors in remote corners of the region and to participate in the delivery of that relief. Evacuation helicopters are bringing stranded victims to safety.

The United States has set up a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week Disaster Response Command Center at the U.S. Agency for International Development headquarters here in Washington, along with regional coordination centers in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Together with governments from around the world, America is leading the largest international relief effort in history.

As we speak, a delegation, led by Secretary Colin Powell and Governor Jeb Bush, is meeting with leaders of the affected countries to show America's support and solidarity, and to determine how we can continue to be effective, to maximize our effectiveness.

Later tonight I too will travel to the region to survey the damage, spending

Thursday in Sri Lanka touring disaster sites and visiting hospitals, surveying our relief efforts, and lending my help wherever I can, including medical assistance. Following that, I and others will travel to the southeast coast of India on a similar mission.

The purpose of our trip is several fold: to assure the people of the region that we are engaged and fully committed. The Senate is taking these first steps as an institution by adopting the resolution expressing our sympathy for the countries and victims affected and promising our full support of America's relief efforts.

While in the region, we will also make a personal assessment of what U.S. assistance is needed and will have the opportunity to meet with leaders of the affected countries and ask personally how America can best help. I intend to ensure that aid is following as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Senate is taking its first step here today as we consider and adopt the Senate resolution expressing sympathy and pledging support to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the peoples of Southeast Asia, South Asia, the island nations of the region, and eastern Africa.

Senator REID and I have worked closely on this effort in a bipartisan manner to express the unanimous agreement of this body, the U.S. Senate.

I also thank Senator DICK LUGAR, who has shown steadfast leadership in this time of crisis and who has worked closely on this resolution with us as well. I know his committee in the coming weeks and months ahead will be delving into many matters relating to this disaster. We extend our great thanks to him.

Let me close my remarks by offering, on behalf of myself, the U.S. Senate, and the American people, our deepest sympathies to the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Our hearts and prayers are with you—the victims, the survivors, and their families. The struggle to recover will be long. We all know that. It will be difficult. There will be many sorrow-filled days as we learn the full impact of this tragedy, but throughout the United States will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of these devastated lands. We are determined to help rebuild their communities and restore their hope.

America is a great nation because it is a compassionate nation. It is our solemn commitment and obligation as a free people to share the blessing of liberty, especially with those who are so desperately in need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the day after the tsunami, I had the opportunity to meet with scores of people from Southeast Asia. There were people from Sri Lanka. The person who put the event together was from Ban-

gladesh. We had people from Thailand, India, many people. It was an event in my honor. They had bought out a restaurant that night. It was a festive occasion, but there was a pall over what we were doing as a result of the tsunami that had taken place.

This tsunami was so difficult. These people in Reno, NV, had come to our country for the opportunity to realize their hopes and dreams. Each one of them love America, but of course they also feel an abiding love for their native lands and cultures.

I have trouble comprehending the power of nature. I read that the earthquake that took place was a million times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Nagasaki—not one thousand times, a million times. It was so powerful it threw off the Earth's rotation. This was a powerful act of nature.

In today's world, there is no such thing as an isolated event. It hit 11 countries. We are all connected to those countries. One hundred or so years ago that wouldn't have been the case. Fifty years ago it would have been less the case. The earthquake that caused the deadly tsunami was estimated at 9.0 on the Richter Scale. It was first picked up in Hawaii. They thought it was 8.0. I thought to myself, 8, 9, is that a big difference? It is 100 times different.

The President pro tempore is from Alaska. It is my understanding that the only earthquake in recent history that was stronger took place in Alaska. Fortunately, there were not a lot of people in Alaska and there wasn't the deadly tsunami that occurred following that earthquake.

We don't know the death toll. They found 6,000 more dead people yesterday, 9 or 10 days after the event. It is probably 150,000 and counting. Tens of thousands of people are missing. Millions have lost their homes. We are all affected by this catastrophic loss. We all share the anguish of a mother who lost a child, a father who lost a child. We feel the bewilderment and fear of children who lost their parents. That is why I am happy this resolution contains a paragraph dealing with adoption.

We all want to help. Since this tragedy took place 9 days ago, the world has seen an outpouring of aid for the victims of this tsunami. I spoke with the Democratic ranking member on the Finance Committee. He also has to deal with Senator GRASSLEY, the chairman. They are concerned that the outpouring of charity by the people of the United States will be recognized taxwise. We need to do that so they can get some benefit for the money they gave before the end of the year. I hope we can.

The American people have opened their hearts and wallets, donating millions of dollars to groups such as the Red Cross that are working to provide relief from this disaster. Two former Presidents with whom I had the good fortune of serving in the Congress, Bill

Clinton and George Bush the first, have agreed to lead the charitable efforts for the United States.

We got off to a slow start. There is no question about that. At the event I talked about in Reno, we talked about Secretary Powell's press conference where he said we were going to provide \$15 million. We were all terribly disappointed in that. I hoped that the Secretary didn't realize the full impact of the tragedy that had taken place. I couldn't imagine he would have done that had he known. Fifteen million is half as much as we are spending on the inaugural ceremonies this month. And then it took a while for the President to step forward. Let's put all that behind us. America has now stepped forward. I am proud of what we have done and what we are doing. We have a lot more to do.

I was glad to see the U.S. military, as stretched as we are, step forward with aircraft carriers and other resources that only the military can put forward. I listened to something on Public Radio today. It said that on one island in Indonesia, they had instructed the American helicopter pilots not to bring in any more wounded: People who are sick, we cannot take care of them. The American pilots brought them in anyway. As a result of that, the American military responded by setting up a field hospital that will take care of those people. We are doing a lot. We have more to do.

The magnitude of the disaster that befell this part of the world is unbelievable to most of us. I am glad that America is now responding. That is why this resolution is so important. We have increased our commitment. I have already talked about the aircraft, the ships, the helicopters that deliver the food and water and clothing. One of those aircraft carriers makes thousands and thousands of gallons of pure, fresh water every day. That will be taken off the aircraft carrier to people who have despoiled water, water that is contaminated.

The response of the American people and our Government is important for many reasons. Obviously, our efforts help relieve the suffering of these victims, but they also help show the world what kind of a nation and people we are. David Ignatius wrote a wonderful column in the Washington Post where he talked about our ability to respond to world situations when there is such a disaster. We are not going to be able to win the war against terror unless we are able to show the world that we are a country based upon laws, not men, that we are a charitable nation, that we are a nation that is concerned about people's rights, human rights.

If we are able to show by virtue of the example we are setting with the disaster that befell these 11 nations, we will be able to convert people who are sympathetic to evil terrorists. We have a lot of people who are sympathetic to what these evil terrorists are doing. With actions such as this, we will be

able to show to those people who are sympathetic to the terrorists that maybe their sympathy is not well placed. I am confident we can do that, and in the process we will win the war on terror that is being perpetrated against not only us but against the world.

I commend and applaud the majority leader for working to make the resolution the first order of legislative business in this session of Congress. It is important that we do that. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the tidal waves, tsunamis, that traversed the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific on December 26 have caused death and destruction in at least 12 countries, particularly India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The tsunami disaster constitutes a humanitarian tragedy of incredible proportions. Currently, experts estimate that more than 150,000 people have perished and countless people are injured. Millions are homeless and at risk from disease. These tragic numbers are expected to rise as we obtain additional information.

The United States is a compassionate country that will respond generously to this human catastrophe. Under the leadership of President Bush, the agencies and resources of the U.S. Government have been mobilized to assist in the initial humanitarian effort. In addition, innumerable individual Americans and U.S. businesses have donated millions of dollars directly to international relief efforts. As the world leader in international disaster assistance, the United States must work closely with the international community to implement the most effective response possible in the coming weeks and months.

Beyond the compelling humanitarian reasons for swift action, a stable and prosperous Asia is essential to the global effort on a range of shared problems, including weapons proliferation, terrorism, narcotics, and contagious diseases. The worldwide economic and political consequences of this natural disaster could be even more severe unless we commit ourselves to advancing a strong recovery in the region.

This resolution explains the gravity of the situation, offers condolences to the victims and their loved ones, and sets the stage for Congress to make additional appropriations that will aid in the recovery. Congress must work with the President for a generous supplemental appropriation that goes well beyond the amounts of money already committed.

A summit pledging conference is scheduled to occur in Jakarta, Indonesia on Thursday. The United States should be there in a leadership position. This will be an important opportunity to work with the world community in responding to this tragedy. American humanitarian, diplomatic, and national security interests will be deeply affected by the outcome of this conference.

My heart goes out to the victims of this tragedy. While financial and in-kind assistance cannot replace the huge loss of life that countries in the region have suffered, the United States' contribution will, at least, help the survivors rebuild their lives.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I express my sincere sympathy for the millions of people affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Africa on December 26. The scale of this disaster is overwhelming, and the human losses are horrifying. Families have been shattered and whole communities lost, and because so many international tourists were in the region, virtually every part of the world—including the United States—is represented in the list of casualties.

I know the sorrow that I feel as I review the reports of devastating losses is shared by the people of Wisconsin and by all Americans. I know that we also share a sense of resolve—resolve to provide whatever assistance we can to the survivors and the affected communities, and resolve to be steadfast partners in the long-term reconstruction efforts that must follow the relief operations.

I vividly recall the powerful voices that rose up from all corners of the globe in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I remember how they conveyed a sense of solidarity and support that gave our country comfort and affirmed the bonds that unite all of humanity, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or religion. Now, countless American voices are also sounding loudly and clearly in that same spirit.

I am grateful for the efforts of so many around the world to come to the aid of those in need, including U.S. military personnel who are working day and night to help. Businesses and individuals from around Wisconsin have contacted my office, looking for ways that they can help. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the resolution before the Senate that expresses our sympathy and pledges our support to the victims of this catastrophe, and I pledge to continue working with my colleagues to ensure that our words continue to be matched by our actions.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today the Senate expresses its condolences over the recent tsunami disaster. Like most Americans, I watched in horror over the holidays as a tsunami battered thousands of miles of coastline across South Asia and Africa. The damage left in the wake of this disaster is almost overwhelming, and I feel a sense of personal and professional obligation to do whatever can be done to help those in need. Though the grim reports have varied in the days following this disaster, it is becoming clear that nearly 150,000 people have already lost their lives, and hundreds of thousands of others are in grave jeopardy because of the damage inflicted by the tsunami. Still more families are

searching for loved ones, hoping for any news regarding their family members' whereabouts.

In trying to guide a humanitarian effort through the aftermath of this tragedy, the United States and the larger international community must help these countries face longer term obstacles of disease, the destruction of basic infrastructure, complete damage to coastal economies and other fundamental hardship. America has itself been the victim of great tragedies such as this, and indeed it appears that thousands of Americans living or traveling in South Asia and Africa have themselves been affected by this horrible natural disaster.

My heart goes out to all these victims of the tsunami. It is time for the world, particularly those nations that are most fortunate such as the United States, to move rapidly with a relief and recovery effort that is worthy of the size of this tragedy. I am encouraged that our Government, in cooperation with private sector charities and the business community, has now begun to focus on what can be done to help the affected countries. This tragedy provides America with an opportunity to show that we can lead the world, not just when it is our military that is needed, but when we can offer our generosity and expertise for a massive humanitarian effort. So many nations affected by this tragedy are looking to America for help and we have an opportunity to provide the world our leadership. In addition to it being the right thing to do, it is clearly in America's national interest to be a leader in helping these countries to recover.

In this spirit, I wholeheartedly support the administration's pledge of \$350 million to the relief effort. I also commend the involvement of former Presidents Clinton and Bush in helping to organize a private relief effort. I would also like to commend the work being done by our private sector, particularly by nongovernmental organizations and the business community, to help those in need. This charitable work is quintessentially American, and these efforts are something for which we can all be proud.

I also want to share with my colleagues that we should be aware that the generosity of the American people in response to this disaster extends to the knowledge we have to share with the world regarding the monitoring and reporting of oceanic and climatic events.

There is important research and monitoring already being done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on tsunami events, work that involves the University of Washington in my State. Scientists are learning how better to monitor patterns or impending developments in our oceans so we can be prepared for future possible events. We do not always focus on the good work being done by NOAA, until something tragic like this tsunami occurs. Congress has

an obligation to people on our coasts to fund NOAA and see that it can do its job well, and we should work to fulfill that obligation.

In the United States, NOAA's National Weather Service operates two tsunami warning centers, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska. In the event of a tsunami, the Centers will issue local tsunami advisories to the Emergency Managers Office of each potentially affected State. The decision to evacuate a coastal area rests with each responsible EM. The Seattle Post Intelligencer reported that the current U.S. network consists of six deep-sea sensors in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and near the equator off the coast of Peru. In addition to the six tsunami buoys, the warning system takes advantage of existing tidal monitoring stations and USGS seismic monitoring and reporting capabilities. The NOAA official in charge of the system described the current configuration as the "bare minimum" needed for adequate warning. There are plans to expand the system to 20 tsunami buoys in the next five years, 10 of which will be placed in the Aleutian Islands. NOAA is estimating one-time costs of \$8.7 million and recurring costs of \$8.5 million to enhance the current system.

NOAA also runs a Tsunami Research Program out of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. The objective of the Tsunami Research Program is to improve warning guidance, hazard assessment, and implementation planning. The Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, a partnership between NOAA and UW, has also worked with the Tsunami Research Program on hazard assessment modeling.

PMEL has also developed instruments it has named tsunameters. With six deployed in the middle of the Pacific since 2001 in waters 2.5 to 4 miles deep, the tsunameters can detect the perturbations in water pressure as a tsunami passes above. When it detects something, it sends a signal by sound waves to a buoy on the surface. The signal is relayed to a satellite and then back to Earth to tsunami warning centers in Hawaii and Alaska, a process that takes only 2 minutes.

No significant tsunamis have yet occurred in the Pacific for the tsunameters to detect, but they have prevented a false alarm. In November 2003, a magnitude 7.8 undersea earthquake occurred near the Aleutian Islands, spurring officials to issue a tsunami warning. When the wave passed over a tsunameter, they saw it was small and canceled the warning.

In conclusion, I again express my condolences and those of Washingtonians to those who have lost family members in this tragedy. The Senate should do all it can to help all those who face a long and difficult cleanup.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to express my profound condolences for

the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Africa. I commend our two leaders for writing S. Res. 4, passed unanimously by the Senate earlier this afternoon. It is right and fitting that on our first day of business in this Congress the Senate has united to send a message of hope and leadership to the victims of this horrible disaster.

We were all mortified to learn of the devastation caused by this disaster as we awoke after a day of Christmas celebrations. The news from this disaster has been arriving so fast and furious that it is hard to put the kinds of numbers we are talking about in perspective. We know there are more than 150,000 people dead—that is 150,000 personal tragedies. And there are hundreds of thousands of others who are homeless and whose lives have been turned upside down by this tragedy. We said clearly to their families and loved ones in our resolution today that we are here to help them recover and rebuild.

The generosity and compassion of America will be felt in Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Thailand. In fact, our troops and humanitarian assistance professionals are already bringing hope to those countries in the form of water, food and comfort. We thank our troops for their hard work and for showing the world the best of America, as they always do.

I am also mindful this afternoon that this terrible disaster has wreaked havoc in our own country and in my own state of Colorado. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR IGNATIUS McDERMOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise to pay tribute

to the life of a great friend, a great man who passed away on December 31. His name was Monsignor Ignatius McDermott and he was known as Father Mac, from the city of Chicago. He was a model of compassion, commitment, and service.

On December 31, when he left this Earth, he was 95 years old. He made his name in Chicago because of his dedication to some of the poorest people who lived in that city. When he was a young priest, he had many options. He worked in parishes and had different assignments, but he knew there was a special calling in his life, a calling that very few priests, very few people would even consider. Monsignor McDermott, Father Mac, dedicated his life to walking Chicago's meanest streets, skid row, and becoming the priest, the chaplain, of thousands of people on those streets addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Ironically, he died on the 29th anniversary of the day that he cofounded Chicago's largest addiction treatment center, Haymarket Center.

He was born in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood. If you read Upton Sinclair's book "The Jungle," you know what the stockyards meant to the city of Chicago. That is where the immigrant families headed. That is where they could find a job that required hard work and a strong back and barely make a living. That is where he grew up.

He was known in his youth as just the kid brother of the famous alderman, Jim McDermott. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1936. He was assigned to what is now known in Chicago as Maryville Academy, a home for neglected and abandoned orphaned children. It was there that he saw for the first time in his ministry how alcoholism affected families.

He disagreed with the common sentiment in Chicago and across the country that alcoholism was just a character flaw: If you had a little better character, you might overcome that problem. He understood it was a disease and it needed to be treated. So Father McDermott brought Alcoholics Anonymous, which in the late forties was really a creation for the middle class of America, to the people of skid row in Chicago, people whose alcoholism had left them in the worst possible plight.

In 1963, he founded the Central States Institute of Addiction because he recognized the need for qualified treatment counselors and educators. It was there that Illinois's first program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol was created.

In the 1970s, he led the charge in our State to decriminalize public drunkenness. On New Year's Eve 1975, along with Dr. James West, who would go on to direct the Betty Ford Center in California, Father McDermott founded Haymarket Center.

I have had the privilege in public life to meet some amazing people, and I count Monsignor McDermott—Father Mac—as one of those people.