

Whereas the price for Greece in holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was 1 of only 3 countries in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day, said, "Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners.";

Whereas President Bush stated that Greece's successful "law enforcement operations against a terrorist organization [November 17] responsible for three decades of terrorist attacks underscore the important contributions Greece is making to the global war on terrorism";

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over \$10,000,000,000 in the region;

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States during the war in Iraq, as Greece immediately granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq were refueled in Greece;

Whereas, in August 2004, the Olympic games came home to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas Greece received world-wide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympics of over 14,000 athletes from 202 countries and over 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, which it did so efficiently, securely, and with its famous Greek hospitality;

Whereas the unprecedented security effort in Greece for the first Olympics after the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, included a record-setting expenditure of over \$1,390,000,000 and assignment of over 70,000 security personnel, as well as the utilization of an 8-country Olympic Security Advisory Group that included the United States;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and other ideals have forged a close bond between these 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2006, marks the 185th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2006, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; and

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

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROCESS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 400, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 400) expressing the sense of the Senate on the constitutional reform process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 400) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 400

Whereas the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the "Dayton Peace Accords") was agreed to at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995;

Whereas the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords was a historic accomplishment that was made possible through the strong leadership of the United States;

Whereas the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords ended a brutal 3½-year conflict marked by aggression and genocide in which many tens of thousands lost their lives;

Whereas the Dayton Peace Accords created a framework for a common state in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but was crafted amidst the exigencies of war and included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life;

Whereas in the 10 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, there has been considerable progress in building a peaceful society in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas this progress in building a peaceful society has been facilitated by both the citizens of the country and the international community;

Whereas, during the 9 years that the peacekeepers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization worked to keep order in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their forces suffered no intentional casualties and never fired a single shot in combat;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina has demonstrated a willingness to contribute to the work of the international community and sent 36 troops to assist in efforts to stabilize the country of Iraq;

Whereas the full incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Euro-Atlantic community is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas, past accomplishments notwithstanding, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face significant challenges on their road toward further Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas the Council of Europe's Venice Commission has concluded that the current constitutional arrangements of Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither efficient nor rational, and that the state-level institutions need to become more effective and democratic if Bosnia and Herzegovina is to move toward membership in the European Union;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina need "a stronger, energetic state capable of advancing the public good" and pledged that the United States will remain a dedicated partner to Bosnia and Herzegovina as it moves toward further Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have already agreed to significant reforms of the budget process, intelligence services, criminal prosecution offices, justice ministry, border and customs services, and defense sector;

Whereas, on November 22, 2005, political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina met in Washington and signed a Commitment to Pursue Constitutional Reform in which members pledged to continue working toward the creation of stronger and more efficient democratic institutions; and

Whereas it is imperative that changes to the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina be agreed to by April 2006 to take effect prior to national elections in October 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is time for Bosnia and Herzegovina to work toward the creation of a state with more functional, self-sustaining institutions;

(2) any agreement on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina should advance the principles of democracy and tolerance;

(3) the constitutional reforms of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be consistent with, and bring the country closer to, the goal of membership in the European Union;

(4) the United States supports the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a unified, fully democratic, and stable state on the path toward Euro-Atlantic integration;

(5) all parties to negotiations on the reforms of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina should work together and seek compromises so that a first set of revisions to the Constitution can take effect before national elections in October 2006;

(6) all groups responsible for past violence and atrocities in Bosnia and Herzegovina must accept responsibility for their actions and promote reconciliation among the different ethnic groups of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

(7) all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina must comply with the directives of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), arrest persons indicted for war crimes, and turn over fugitives to face justice at the International Criminal Tribunal.

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 401 which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 401) urging the Republic of Belarus to conduct planned presidential elections March 19, 2006, in a free, fair, and transparent manner, and with respect for human rights.

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. 401) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 401

Whereas the Government of Belarus has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), including provisions of the 1990 Copenhagen Document;

Whereas the Belarus parliamentary elections of 2000 failed to meet international standards;

Whereas the Belarus presidential elections of 2001 failed to meet international standards;

Whereas the local elections in Belarus in 2003 failed to meet international standards;

Whereas the Belarus parliamentary elections of 2004 failed to meet international standards;

Whereas the 2004 vote on the constitutional referendum in Belarus failed to meet international standards;

Whereas Belarus is scheduled to conduct presidential elections on March 19, 2006;

Whereas President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has placed tight controls on the press, jailed opposition party members, violently disrupted protests, conducted surveillance of opposition candidates, and been implicated in the disappearance of at least 3 opposition members and a journalist;

Whereas, on March 2, 2006, opposition candidate Alexander Kazulin and 20 of his supporters were beaten and detained.

Whereas the campaign of Alexander Milinkevich, the main opposition candidate, has been subject to repeated government harassment and bureaucratic obstacles to open campaigning; and

Whereas the intimidation and arrest of opposition parties and candidates, including the reported March 8, 2006, arrest of Vincuk Viachorka and 5 other members of Alexander Milinkevich's campaign team, represents a deliberate assault on the democratic process and sends a clear signal that government officials in Belarus are not committed to holding free and fair elections; Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the people of Belarus as they face the dictatorship of President Lukashenko;

(2) notes that the integration of Belarus into the Western community of nations will suffer delay so long as President Lukashenko prevents the development of a democratic political system;

(3) urges the Government of Belarus to ensure a free, fair, and fully transparent 2006 presidential election, in accordance with Or-

ganization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) standards, including unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), opposition parties, and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) encourages the international community, including the Council of Europe and the OSCE, to continue supporting democracy in Belarus, and thanks the governments and people of neighboring countries such as Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia for continuing to promote democracy and human rights in Belarus; and

(5) expresses its belief that tyranny in Belarus will not forever endure and that the people of Belarus will one day enjoy the benefits of democracy and human rights at home.

JOHN H. BRADLEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1691 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1691) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin as the "John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1691) was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, the budget resolution, as under the previous order; provided further that there be 40 hours equally divided remaining for debate.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we are going to have a very busy day tomorrow and, indeed, a very busy week. We need to work through amendments on

the budget resolution. At 3 p.m. tomorrow, we will have a series of votes on amendments. Senators should plan to be in the Chamber for six back-to-back votes. Senators who are planning to offer amendments should be working with the two managers, Senator GREGG and Senator CONRAD. Senators should expect full days and some late nights and should plan their schedules accordingly. There will be additional votes tomorrow after the stacked votes at 3 p.m.

Mr. President, as I said earlier today, we will complete action on the budget resolution this week, and we absolutely must address the issues surrounding the debt ceiling as well.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 13, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT D. MCCALLUM, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

JONANN E. CHILES, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2008, VICE ROBERT J. DIETER, RESIGNED.

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

J. C. A. STAGG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 17, 2011, VICE JAY PHILLIP GREENE, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KENNETH L. WAINSTEIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL. (NEW POSITION)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CHRISTINE L. BLICHERAUM, 0000
HERBERT E. B. COKER, 0000
HECTOR L. COLONCOLON, 0000
DAVID W. DEPINHO, 0000
MATTHEW P. FRANKE, 0000
PATRICK A. GENSEAL, 0000
SHERROL L. JAMES, 0000
LESLIE A. JANOVEC, 0000
ROBERT W. JOHNSON, 0000
EDDIE JONES, 0000
DANIEL N. KARANJA, 0000
DWAYNE W. KEENE, 0000
STUART A. KING, 0000
DONALD A. LEVY, 0000
KEVIN L. LOCKETT, 0000
JOSHUA NARROWE, 0000
GLENNDON E. PAGE, JR., 0000
JOSEPHINE E. PINKNEY, 0000
TIMOTHY J. PORTER, 0000
JOSE H. TATE, 0000
ABNER PERRY V. VALENZUELA, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

KRISTINE M. AUTORINO, 0000
SHANNON ANN BENNETT, 0000
COREA K. BERGENSER, 0000
YAVONTKA V. BOOSE, 0000