

training and advanced emergency medical care. And, in total, more than 17,500 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In the 108th Congress, we shepherded into law a number of measures 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 nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activities to qualify for Federal survivor benefits.

We also enacted the Campbell-Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, P.L. No. 108-372, which extends through FY 2007 the authorization of appropriations for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program. This program helps State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

Incredibly, President Bush has proposed significant cuts to the bulletproof vest program in his fiscal year 2007 budget proposal, but I will work with other Senators to make sure the program is fully funded. Bulletproof vests have saved the lives of thousands of officers and are a fundamental line of defense that no officer should be without. I know I am not alone in calling for the Senate to fully fund the bulletproof vest program and I truly hope Senators will agree that it is critical that we provide the funding authorized for this program. Hundreds of thousands of police officers are counting on us.

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 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington to join with the families of their fallen comrades. I hope all Senators will join me in honoring their service by passing this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution introduced by Senator LEAHY and others to recognize May 15, 2006, as "Peace Officers Memorial Day. Peace Officers work tirelessly to protect our society from criminals who would prey on the weak and innocent. They are the front line

in a battle for justice and the rule of law. They often are unheralded heroes, whose simple act of going to work puts them in harm's way for our sake.

Tens of thousands of police officers were assaulted last year, and that number is likely to be similar this year. It is important that we take a moment to recognize the crucial service they provide.

Last year, 156 police officers were killed in the line of duty. Justice for the families of slain officers often comes slowly. I have introduced legislation that would speed up the process for the most hardened of criminals, those who murder police men and women. The Law Enforcement Officers' Protection Act would guarantee tough punishment for criminals who murder or assault police officers. Part of the legislation is named after Dr. John B. Jamison, a Coconino County, AZ Reserve Sheriffs Deputy who was slain while responding to a fellow deputy's call for assistance. The killer fired 30 rounds from an assault rifle into Deputy Jamison's car, killing him before he could reach for his gun or even unbuckle his seatbelt. He is survived by two children. State courts completed their review of the killer's conviction and sentence in 1985. Federal courts then delayed the case for an additional 15 years. One judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit even tried to postpone the killer's final execution date on the alleged basis that that killer was wrongfully denied State funds to investigate a rare neurological condition that his lawyer had learned of while watching television. Deputy Jamison's killer ultimately was executed in 2000—18 years after the crime occurred, and 15 years after Federal habeas corpus proceedings began.

So as we recognize the sacrifice that peace officers make to protect us every day—to protect the streets on which we drive to work, protect the neighborhoods where our children play, protect the stores where we shop, protect the very halls of government where I stand today—I urge my colleagues to help protect the peace officers and bring justice to the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the benefit of the rest of us.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion 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. 472) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 472

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 900,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safe-

ty, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front lines 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 156 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty during 2005, which is below the decade-long annual average of 167 deaths;

Whereas a number of factors contributed to this reduction in deaths, including—

- (1) better equipment and increased use of bullet-resistant vests;
- (2) improved training;
- (3) longer prison terms for violent offenders; and
- (4) advanced emergency medical care;

Whereas every other day, 1 out of every 16 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 56 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 5,500 peace officers is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States; and

Whereas on May 15, 2006, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C., to join with the 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, 2006, as "Peace Officers Memorial Day", in honor of the Federal, State, and local officers that have been killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- (2) calls on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

NATIONAL POLICE SURVIVORS DAY

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 473 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. 473) designating May 14, 2006, as National Police Survivors Day.

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. 473) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 473

Whereas the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square of Washington, D.C., lists on its Wall of Remembrance the names of 17,535 Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty;

Whereas, in the United States, 1 law enforcement officer is killed every 53 hours, and between 140 and 160 law enforcement officers lose their lives in the line of duty each year;

Whereas, on May 14, 1983, on the eve of the 2nd annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, 10 widows of fallen law enforcement officers came together at dinner to discuss the lack of support for law enforcement survivors;

Whereas, exactly 1 year later, that discussion led to the formation of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. at the first annual National Police Survivors Seminar, which drew 110 law enforcement survivors from throughout the United States;

Whereas Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. has grown to serve over 15,000 surviving families of fallen law enforcement officers by providing healing, love, and the opportunity for a renewed life;

Whereas Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. and its 48 chapters throughout the United States—

(1) provide a program of peer support and counseling to law enforcement survivors for 365 days a year;

(2) helps survivors obtain the death benefits to which they are entitled; and

(3) sponsors scholarships for children and surviving spouses to pursue post-secondary education;

Whereas Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. sponsors a year-round series of seminars, meetings and youth activities, including the National Police Survivors' Seminar during National Police Week, retreats for parents, spouses, siblings, and programs and summer activities for young and adolescent children;

Whereas Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. helps law enforcement agencies cope with the loss of an officer by promoting the adoption of standardized policies and procedures for line-of-duty deaths; and

Whereas Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. inspires the public to recognize the sacrifices made by law enforcement families by encouraging all citizens of the United States to tie a blue ribbon to their car antenna during National Police Week; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 14, 2006, as "National Police Survivors Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Police Survivors' Day with appropriate ceremonies to pay respect to—

(A) the survivors of the fallen heroes of law enforcement; and

(B) the fallen law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community.

HONORING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 335, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 335) honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 97th anniversary.

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

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 335, a concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for 97 years of championing the cause of equality in the United States.

At the dawn of the 20th century—almost 56 years after the end of the Civil

War—African Americans were still denied the full rights of citizenship. African Americans were forced to endure the daily humiliation of economic exploitation and social segregation with almost no recourse. Racial tensions boiled over into riots and lynchings. It was at this critical juncture in our nation's history that a group of concerned citizens, answering freedom's call, gathered together to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York City.

Since its founding, the NAACP has fought for the social, political, and economic equality of all Americans and has sought to eliminate racial discrimination. And the NAACP has never wavered from its commitment to non-violence in achieving these goals.

In 1918, the NAACP successfully pressured President Wilson to publicly condemn lynching and continued to raise awareness about the horrific crime. In 1930, the NAACP began its long history of protesting judicial nominees who oppose the advancement of civil rights, with the successful defeat of John Parker to the Supreme Court. The NAACP fought for, and ultimately achieved, desegregation of the military and other federal government institutions. The NAACP was victorious in *Buchanan vs. Warley*, where the Supreme Court held that states cannot restrict and segregate residential districts. And of course, in the seminal case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the NAACP successfully argued that the "separate, but equal" doctrine is unconstitutional, thereby making segregation in public schools illegal.

In the 1960s, the NAACP was a leader in the fight to eradicate Jim Crow laws and abolish segregation. And the NAACP was integral to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Rights Act.

In short, the NAACP has been a catalyst for social change in this country, winning landmark court decisions and advocating for civil rights laws that have walked our nation closer to the promise of equality envisioned in our Constitution.

Notwithstanding its powerful voice and extraordinary accomplishments, we must never forget that the NAACP works through the tireless efforts of its individual members, united around a common vision of justice and equality. During desperate times, legendary NAACP members such as Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, and Medger Evers made historic stands in service of the movement of civil rights.

However, equally as important are the "everyday" contributions of organizers and activists. One example is Mary Burnett Talbert. Originally a teacher in Little Rock, AR, Talbert eventually moved with her husband to Buffalo, NY, where she received an advanced degree. An active member of her community, Talbert was one of the founders of the NAACP and later its di-

rector, vice president, and president. As director the NAACP's Anti-Lynching Campaign, Talbert traveled the Nation giving speeches to black and white audiences. She once wrote that "By her peculiar position the colored woman has gained clear powers of observation and judgment—exactly the sort of powers which are today peculiarly necessary to the building of an ideal country." With every public education campaign, every fight over a judicial nomination, and every lobbying effort to pass progressive legislation, the NAACP takes us one step closer to the "ideal country" that Mary Talbert envisioned.

While the NAACP's mission is to fight for the rights of African Americans, it has always been a multiracial and multicultural organization. Many of its founding members were white, including Oswald Garrison Villard, Mary White Ovington, and Henry Moscowitz.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the NAACP, we must also honor the values upon which it was founded, for there is much work left to be done, and the same tireless dedication and clarity of purpose will be required to continue onward.

Despite the last century of achievements, substantial racial disparities persist in educational achievement, access to health care, and economic prosperity. Hurricane Katrina highlighted the tragic and enduring link between race and poverty in our country, as well as emphasized our nation's failure to care for those among us least able to provide for themselves. We must continue vigilantly to guard against the resurgence of discriminatory practices that would deprive African Americans of the most fundamental right of democracy—the right to vote. We must continue to work to guarantee that every citizen is able to vote and that every vote is counted. And this summer, we must reauthorize the Voting Rights Act.

The NAACP has always stood ready to face these and other challenges. Ninety-seven years after a group of concerned citizens assembled in New York around the common goal of creating a more just society, the NAACP's half million members continue to lead Freedom's march.

For the battles it has fought, and for the battles it has yet to fight, our nation is forever in debt to the NAACP.

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

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 335) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.