

(1) the strength and endurance of the partnership between the United States and Mongolia should be acknowledged and celebrated;

(2) the United States should encourage continued economic cooperation with Mongolia, including in areas such as mining, construction, information technology, tourism, and meat processing, to the betterment of both our economies;

(3) the United States should continue to work with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank to improve Mongolia's economic system;

(4) the United States should provide Mongolia assistance under the Millennium Challenge Compact and work to finalize the compact in a timely fashion; and

(5) the United States should encourage greater academic and cultural exchanges with Mongolia.

#### EXPRESSING IMPORTANCE OF A SOVEREIGN, DEMOCRATIC, AND PROSPEROUS LEBANON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 353, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 353) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of a sovereign, democratic, and prosperous Lebanon and the need for free and fair presidential elections in Lebanon without intimidation or foreign interference.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 353) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 353

Whereas, in 2004, the term of the current President of Lebanon, Emile Lahoud, was extended through the interference of the Government of Syria in the internal affairs of the Government of Lebanon;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, adopted on September 2, 2004, called for free and fair presidential elections in Lebanon conducted in accordance with the constitution of Lebanon and without foreign interference and influence;

Whereas such a presidential election has not yet occurred;

Whereas the Parliament of Lebanon is preparing to elect a new president of Lebanon before the November 24, 2007, conclusion of the mandate of the current President;

Whereas the Governments of Syria and Iran, through their proxies in Lebanon, have sought undue influence over the election of the next president of Lebanon;

Whereas the preparation for these elections has thus far been characterized by violence and intimidation tactics, and on September 19, 2007, Member of the Parliament of Lebanon Antoine Ghanem became the 8th Lebanese leader to be assassinated since 2005;

Whereas the democratically-elected Government of Lebanon has been under steady attack by domestic and foreign elements and forces that have been instigating civil unrest, disrupting the operation of the cabinet and Parliament, and perpetrating acts of terror against the people of Lebanon;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, adopted on August 11, 2006, reiterated "strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders", and called on states to "take the necessary measures to prevent . . . the sale or supply to any entity or individual in Lebanon of arms and related materiel of all types";

Whereas President Lahoud has threatened to create an unconstitutional rival cabinet and hand over power to it if the opposition is not satisfied with the results of the constitutional electoral process;

Whereas the Governments of Syria and Iran, in clear contravention of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, have violated Lebanon's sovereignty by providing arms to illegitimate militias in Lebanon and to other terrorist organizations;

Whereas the armed forces of Lebanon are protecting Lebanon and its people from terrorist organizations like Fatah al Islam;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757 established a Special Tribunal for Lebanon, to be convened outside of Lebanon, to try those accused of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafiq Hariri and others; and

Whereas a sovereign, democratic, and prosperous Lebanon is in the national security interest of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls for free and fair presidential elections in Lebanon, conducted according to the constitution of Lebanon and free from foreign interference and influence or the use of intimidation tactics;

(2) supports ongoing efforts by leaders in Lebanon to reach agreement on a presidential candidate committed to upholding Lebanon's sovereignty and independence;

(3) condemns the Governments of Syria and Iran for their undue material interference in the internal political affairs of Lebanon, including in the election of a new president, and for their repeated violations of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, and calls on the Governments of Syria and Iran to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, particularly with respect to preventing unauthorized shipment of arms into Lebanon;

(4) affirms its strong support for the armed forces of Lebanon as they work to secure Lebanon against terrorists and illegal armed militias, and conveys its readiness to provide support to assist in these ends;

(5) urges the Secretary of State to continue efforts in support of a Special Tribunal for Lebanon to end impunity for political assassinations, including assisting in efforts to convene the Special Tribunal as soon as possible, affirms its readiness to continue to provide material support to this cause, and calls on all countries to make timely and generous contributions to this end; and

(6) urges the President to use all peaceful means at the disposal of the United States to help promote an independent, democratic, and prosperous Lebanon, including increased diplomatic coordination with key partners in Europe and the Middle East, and supports efforts by the United States to provide ongoing and substantial assistance for reconstruction efforts in Lebanon.

#### SUPPORTING "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL"

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 51, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) supporting "Lights on Afterschool", a national celebration of after school programs.

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

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD)

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator ENSIGN and I, along with 29 cosponsors, are submitting a concurrent resolution with the House of Representatives designating October 18, 2007 as Lights On Afterschool Day. Lights on Afterschool brings students, parents, educators, lawmakers, and community and business leaders together to celebrate afterschool programs. This year, more than 1 million Americans are expected to attend about 7,500 events designed to raise awareness and support for these much needed programs. In addition, Lights On Afterschool 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the primary Federal initiative supporting afterschool programs.

Approximately 90 percent of parents say that having a safe, positive place where their child can go after school will improve their child's well-being. However, 14 million school-age children—or 25 percent of all school-age children—are left unsupervised after school and miss the opportunity to attend a safe, positive place that supports their growth and well-being.

Quality afterschool programs benefit youth, families, and communities. Students enrolled in afterschool programs are more likely to be engaged and go farther in education. They are also more likely to avoid risky behavior and criminal activity. Afterschool programs help parents successfully balance their work and home-life. In addition, these programs promote adult involvement with youth, which helps to create more cohesive communities invested in the future of our children.

In our work on the Senate Afterschool Caucus, Senator ENSIGN and I have been working for more than three years to impress upon our colleagues the importance of afterschool and are proud to say that 35 of our colleagues have joined the Caucus. We hope that they, along with other Members of the Congress, will join us on October 18 to celebrate the importance of afterschool programs in their communities back home.●

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

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 51

Whereas high quality after school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high quality after school programs support working families by ensuring that the children in such families are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high quality after school programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's youth, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high quality after school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;

Whereas "Lights On Afterschool!", a national celebration of after school programs held on October 18, 2007, promotes the critical importance of high quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and 14,300,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many after school programs across the United States are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!" a national celebration of after school programs.*

COMMENDING NASA LANGLEY  
RESEARCH CENTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 222, just received from the House and at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 222) congratulating and commending the men and women of NASA Langley Research Center for their accomplishments and role in inspiring the American people.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to

reconsider be laid on the table, without intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 222) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXTENDING THE TIME TO OBTAIN  
A STATUE OF ROSA PARKS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. 2206, introduced earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2206) to provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, Rosa Parks has been described as the "Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement."

Her actions on a Montgomery bus in 1955 sparked one of the Nation's largest movements against racial segregation: the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Due to those brave actions, Rosa Parks became an icon of civil disobedience.

In 2005, Congress voted to preserve the legacy of Rosa Parks by authorizing a statue of her to be placed in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall.

A statue of Rosa Parks would be a fitting tribute to the struggle for equal rights for all Americans.

But two years later, the statue has not been obtained. It is time to remove the hurdles, and ensure that Rosa Parks is honored as Congress intended.

The law designated Congress's Joint Committee on the Library to obtain the statue. But it was later determined that the Joint Committee does not have the technical ability or resources to enter into contracts or pay for the statue.

And now that law is set to expire on December 1, 2007, without ever achieving its intended goal.

So, to correct the problems in the original law, I have introduced a stand alone bill that would: designate the Architect of the Capitol as the agent of the Joint Committee; and extend the deadline by 2 more years.

This legislation would allow for the Architect of the Capitol to distribute funds on behalf of the Joint Committee on the Library.

This legislation has been cosponsored by seven other Senators, including: Senators BENNETT, KERRY, DURBIN, LEVIN, SCHUMER, DODD, and STABENOW.

It is so important that we honor this great American.

Mrs. Parks' actions on a single day in December 1955 changed the lives of so many who followed her.

Let me tell you a little more about Rosa Parks:

Mrs. Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley, February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, AL. Her parents were a carpenter and a teacher.

Rosa Parks grew up and lived in a segregated South. And when she married, she and her husband became active in the local NAACP chapter.

On December 1, 1955, after a day of work at a department store in downtown Montgomery, AL, Rosa Parks boarded a bus to go home. She paid her fare, and took an empty seat in the first row of seats reserved for Blacks.

As the bus traveled along its route, all of the White-only seats in the bus filled up. When the bus reached its next stop, several White passengers boarded.

As was standard practice at that time, the busdriver told the Black passengers seated in the rows behind the White-only section to move. This included Mrs. Parks and three other passengers.

The three other Black passengers moved at the bus driver's insistence. But Mrs. Parks did not.

As she recalled in her autobiography, she was simply "tired of giving in":

People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day.

I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.

This action of civil disobedience sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which became one of the Nation's largest movements against racial segregation.

Rosa Parks was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. She received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. And in 2005, Congress voted to honor her with a statue in the U.S. Capitol. The Architect of the Capitol is prepared to work with the National Endowment for the Arts to find suitable artists and statues to be considered for this honor. But until the funds for this project can be allocated, the search for a statue will not move forward. The legislation introduced today would fix this problem and allow the funds to be released. But more importantly, this legislation would ensure that Rosa Parks an American hero is honored as she so deserves.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statement be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2206) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2206

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*