

mental health and substance abuse problems. They are, in short, among the people who need our help the most. But ironically, they are among those who we deny the most basic of food assistance. Currently, such adults can receive food stamps for only 3 months out of every 3 years. This legislation proposes a modestly more sympathetic standard of 6 months out of every 2-year period.

Finally, my bill would increase funding for commodity purchases for food banks and community food providers. U.S. Government donations to food banks have dropped dramatically in recent years, even as the number of Americans seeking help from community food providers has consistently increased.

I know that the budget is tight and that Congress must be prudent in decisions about how we allocate funding. But I also know that there is no function of the federal government as basic and as critical as ensuring that low-income Americans, families with children, elderly living on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities, have enough food for their next meal. It is past time for Congress to act in this regard, and I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me and the Senator from Indiana to enact the Food Stamp Fairness and Benefit Restoration Act of 2007.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE DR. HALEH ESFANDIARI

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 214

Whereas Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Ph.D., holds dual citizenship in the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas Dr. Esfandiari taught Persian language and literature for many years at Princeton University, where she inspired untold numbers of students to study the rich Persian language and culture;

Whereas Dr. Esfandiari is a resident of the State of Maryland and the Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. (referred to in this preamble as the "Wilson Center");

Whereas, for the past decade, Dr. Esfandiari has traveled to Iran twice a year to visit her ailing 93-year-old mother;

Whereas, in December 2006, on her return to the airport during her last visit to Iran, Dr. Esfandiari was robbed by 3 masked, knife-wielding men, who stole her travel documents, luggage, and other effects;

Whereas, when Dr. Esfandiari attempted to obtain replacement travel documents in Iran, she was invited to an interview by a representative of the Ministry of Intelligence of Iran;

Whereas Dr. Esfandiari was interrogated by the Ministry of Intelligence for hours on many days;

Whereas the questioning of the Ministry of Intelligence focused on the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center;

Whereas Dr. Esfandiari answered all questions to the best of her ability, and the Wilson Center also provided extensive information to the Ministry in a good faith effort to aid Dr. Esfandiari;

Whereas the harassment of Dr. Esfandiari increased, with her being awakened while napping to find 3 strange men standing at her bedroom door, one wielding a video camera, and later being pressured to make false confessions against herself and to falsely implicate the Wilson Center in activities in which it had no part;

Whereas Lee Hamilton, former United States Representative and president of the Wilson Center, has written to the President of Iran to call his attention to Dr. Esfandiari's dire situation;

Whereas Mr. Hamilton repeated that the Wilson Center's mission is to provide forums to exchange views and opinions and not to take positions on issues, nor try to influence specific outcomes;

Whereas the lengthy interrogations of Dr. Esfandiari by the Ministry of Intelligence of Iran stopped on February 14, 2007, but she heard nothing for 10 weeks and was denied her passport;

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, Dr. Esfandiari honored a summons to appear at the Ministry of Intelligence, whereby she was taken immediately to Evin prison, where she is currently being held; and

Whereas the Ministry of Intelligence has implicated Dr. Esfandiari and the Wilson Center in advancing the alleged aim of the United States Government of supporting a "soft revolution" in Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, replace her lost travel documents, and cease its harassment tactics; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States Government, through all appropriate diplomatic means and channels, should encourage the Government of Iran to release Dr. Esfandiari and offer her an apology; and

(B) the United States should coordinate its response with its allies throughout the Middle East, other governments, and all appropriate international organizations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 215—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2007, AS "NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY"

Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 215

Whereas millions of Americans have benefited from the courageous service of first responders across the Nation;

Whereas the police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel (commonly known as "first responders") work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of this Nation, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves;

Whereas in emergency situations, first responders carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety;

Whereas the men and women who bravely serve as first responders have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism;

Whereas first responders are called upon in the event of a natural disaster, such as the tornadoes in Florida and the blizzard in Colorado in December 2006, the wildfires in the West in 2007, and the flooding in the Northeast in April 2007;

Whereas the critical role of first responders was witnessed in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, when the collaborative effort of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to secure the campus, rescue students from danger, treat the injured, and transport victims to local hospitals undoubtedly saved the lives of many students and faculty;

Whereas 670,000 police officers, 1,100,000 firefighters, and 891,000 emergency medical technicians risk their lives every day to make our communities safe;

Whereas these 670,000 sworn police officers from Federal, State, tribal, city, and county law enforcement agencies protect lives and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law, and ensure justice;

Whereas these 1,100,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, response to terrorism, and critical fire prevention and safety education;

Whereas the 891,000 emergency medical professionals in the United States respond to and treat a variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries;

Whereas these 2,661,000 "first responders" make personal sacrifices to protect our communities, as was witnessed on September 11, 2001, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and as is witnessed every day in cities and towns across America;

Whereas according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,649 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 1 death every 53 hours or 165 per year, and 145 law enforcement officers were killed in 2006;

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, from 1996 through 2005 over 1500 firefighters were killed in the line of duty, and tens of thousands were injured;

Whereas 4 in 5 medics are injured on the job, more than 1 in 2 (52 percent) have been assaulted by a patient and 1 in 2 (50 percent) have been exposed to an infectious disease, and emergency medical service personnel in the United States have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average;

Whereas most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the line of duty occur in ambulance accidents;

Whereas thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, America's firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical workers were universally recognized for the sacrifices they made on that tragic day, and should be honored each year as these tragic events are remembered;

Whereas there currently exists no national day to honor the brave men and women of the first responder community, who give so much of themselves for the sake of others;

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts

have earned the gratitude of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 25, 2007, as “National First Responder Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices made by all first responders in the United States.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a resolution today that will designate September 25 as National First Responder Appreciation Day. I am pleased to be joined by my good friends and colleagues, Senators McCAIN, CASEY, COCHRAN, ENZI, STEVENS, LINDSEY GRAHAM, CRAIG and CHAMBLISS.

The contributions that our Nation's 1.1 million firefighters, 670,000 police officers and over 890,000 emergency medical professionals make in our communities are familiar to us all. We see the results of their efforts every night on our TV screens and read about them everyday in the paper. From recent tornados in the Southeast and wildfires in the West, the tragic events at Virginia Tech, and the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, our “first responders” regularly risk their lives to protect property, uphold the law and save the lives of others.

While performing their jobs many first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice. Over 100 firefighters are killed in the line of duty every year. Tragically in 2006, 145 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty as well. And though many might not think a career in the emergency medical services, EMS, is dangerous, EMS workers actually have an occupational fatality rate that is comparable with that of firefighters and police officers.

Yet to recognize our first responders only for their sacrifices would be to ignore the everyday contributions that they make in communities throughout America. In addition to battling fires, firefighters perform important fire prevention and public education duties, like teaching our children how to be “fire safe.” Police officers don’t simply arrest criminals, they actively prevent crime and make our neighborhoods safer and more livable. And if we or our loved ones experience a medical emergency, EMTs are there at a moment’s notice to provide life-saving care.

In many ways, our first responders embody the very best of the American spirit. With charity and compassion, these brave men and women regularly put the well-being of others before their own, oftentimes at great personal risk. Through their actions they have become heroes to many. Through their example they are role models to all of us.

While various cities and towns have recognized the contributions made by their local first responders by declaring a “first responder day,” there exists no national day to honor and thank these courageous men and women. The time has come to give our first responders the national day of appreciation that they deserve.

Designating September 25th as National First Responder Appreciation

day provides an opportunity for this institution, and the people of the United States, to honor first responders for their contributions, sacrifices and dedication to public service.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting passage of this worthwhile resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH AND DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research, the oldest and largest scientific cancer research organization in the United States, was founded on May 7, 1907, at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., by a group of physicians and scientists interested in research to further the investigation into and spread new knowledge about cancer;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research and is the authoritative source of information and publications about advances in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer;

Whereas, since its founding, the American Association for Cancer Research has accelerated the growth and dissemination of new knowledge about cancer and the complexity of this disease to speed translation of new discoveries for the benefit of cancer patients, and has provided the information needed by elected officials to make informed decisions on public policy and sustained funding for cancer research;

Whereas partnerships with research scientists and the general public, survivors and patient advocates, philanthropic organizations, industry, and government have led to advanced breakthroughs, early detection tools which have increased survival rates, and a better quality of life for cancer survivors;

Whereas our national investment in cancer research has yielded substantial returns in terms of research advances and lives saved, with a scholarly estimate that every 1 percent decline in cancer mortality saves our national economy \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas cancer continues to be one of the most pressing public health concerns, killing 1 American every minute, and 12 individuals worldwide every minute;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting on April 14 through 18, 2007, was a large and comprehensive gathering of leading cancer researchers, scientists, and clinicians engaged in all aspects of clinical investigations pertaining to human cancer as well as the scientific disciplines of cellular, molecular, and tumor biology, carcinogenesis, chemistry, developmental biology and stem cells, endocrinology, epidemiology and biostatistics, experimental and molecular therapeutics, immunology, radiobiology and radiation oncology, imaging, prevention, and survivorship research;

Whereas, as part of its centennial celebration, the American Association for Cancer Research has published “Landmarks in Can-

cer Research” citing the events or discoveries after 1907 that have had a profound effect on advancing our knowledge of the causes, mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer;

Whereas these “Landmarks in Cancer Research” are intended as an educational, living document, an ever-changing testament to human ingenuity and creativity in the scientific struggle to understand and eliminate the diseases collectively known as cancer;

Whereas, because more than 60 percent of all cancer occurs in people over the age of 65, issues relating to the interface of aging and cancer, ranging from the most basic science questions to epidemiologic relationships and to clinical and health services research issues, are of concern to society;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is proactively addressing these issues paramount to our aging population through a Task Force on Cancer and Aging, special conferences, and other programs which engage the scientific community in response to this demographic imperative: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the American Association for Cancer Research on its 100 year anniversary celebration, “A Century of Leadership in Science – A Future of Cancer Prevention and Cure”;

(2) recognizes the invaluable contributions made by the American Association for Cancer Research in its quest to prevent and cure cancer and save lives through cancer research;

(3) expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States for the American Association for Cancer Research’s contributions toward progress in advancing cancer research; and

(4) declares the month of May as National Cancer Research Month to support the American Association for Cancer Research in its public education efforts to make cancer research a national and international priority, so that one day the disease of cancer will be relegated to history.

SENATE RESOLUTION 217—DESIGNING THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 20, 2007, AS “NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK”

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 217

Whereas the President has proclaimed that the week beginning May 20, 2007, shall be known as “National Hurricane Preparedness Week”, and has called on government agencies, private organizations, schools, and media to share information about hurricane preparedness;

Whereas, as hurricane season approaches, National Hurricane Preparedness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of steps that can be taken to help protect citizens, their communities, and property;

Whereas the official Atlantic hurricane season occurs in the period beginning June 1, 2007, and ending November 30, 2007;

Whereas hurricanes are among the most powerful forces of nature, causing destructive winds, tornadoes, floods, and storm surges that can result in numerous fatalities and cost billions of dollars in damage;

Whereas, in 2005, a record-setting Atlantic hurricane season caused 28 storms, including