

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 71

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on April 23, 2008, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

CONGRATULATING X PRIZE FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 486.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 486) congratulating the X PRIZE Foundation for their efforts to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that could help break the addiction of the United States to oil and stem the effects of climate change through the Automotive X PRIZE competition.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit today, on behalf of Senator LUGAR, Senator STABENOW, Senator DOMENICI and others, a resolution recognizing an exciting private-sector effort to encourage breakthrough technology in fuel economy. This effort, patterned on the Ansari X-prize competition that led to the development of spacecraft that is likely to make commercial space travel a reality, seeks to apply the same competitive spirit among the best minds in the United States to the pernicious problem of our outsized dependence on foreign oil.

The competition will launch at the upcoming New York Auto Show and sets an ambitious goal for claiming the prize; the winning entrant must produce a commercially viable vehicle that gets at least 100 miles per gallon fuel efficiency over a series of road trials meant to simulate real world driving conditions. It should be an exciting competition, and it is certainly a worthy goal. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing the innovations they inspire.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 486) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 486

Whereas the United States is heavily dependent on foreign sources of oil that are concentrated in tumultuous countries and regions;

Whereas the national security and economic prosperity of the United States demand that the United States moves toward a sustainable energy future;

Whereas the ability of foreign governments to assert great control over oil production allows unfriendly regimes to use energy exports as leverage against the United States and allies of the United States;

Whereas continued reliance on the use of greenhouse gas intensive-fuel may have significant economic and political impacts as the effects of global climate change take hold;

Whereas the transportation sector is heavily dependent on oil, which makes the people of the United States vulnerable to oil price fluctuation and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas many promising technologies exist that could lead to a breakthrough vehicle that will meet the need for sustainable transportation;

Whereas breakthroughs are often achieved by the free market fueling the entrepreneurial spirit of inventors and investors;

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE is a private, independent, technology-neutral competition being developed by the X PRIZE Foundation to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that could help break the addiction of the United States to oil and stem the effects of climate change; and

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE will award a multi-million dollar purse to teams that can design, build, and demonstrate production-capable vehicles that achieve 100 miles per gallon of fuel or an equivalent: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends the leadership of the X PRIZE Foundation for their efforts to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that could help break the addiction of the United States to oil and stem the effects of climate change through the Automotive X PRIZE competition;

(2) congratulates the X PRIZE Foundation on the innovation and vision of the Foundation to bring together some of the finest minds in government, nongovernment, institutions of higher education, and industry to advise and participate in the Automotive X PRIZE competition; and

(3) applauds the ongoing commitment of the X PRIZE Foundation for encouraging solutions to some of greatest challenges facing humanity, as exemplified in the Automotive X PRIZE.

NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 487.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 487) designating March 22, 2008, as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 487) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 487

Whereas rehabilitation counselors conduct assessments, provide counseling, support to families, and plan and implement rehabilitation programs for those in need;

Whereas the purpose of the professional organizations in rehabilitation is to promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to persons with disabilities through quality education and rehabilitation research for counselors;

Whereas the various professional organizations, including the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (RCEA), the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA), the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) have stood firm to advocate up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education;

Whereas on March 22, 1983, Martha Walker of Kent State University, who was President of the NCRE, testified before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the House of Representatives, and was instrumental in bringing to the attention of Congress the need for rehabilitation counselors to be qualified; and

Whereas the efforts of Martha Walker led to the enactment of laws that now require rehabilitation counselors to have proper credentials in order to provide a higher level of quality service to those in need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 22, 2008, as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day; and

(2) commends all of the hard work and dedication that rehabilitation counselors provide to individuals in need and the numerous efforts that the multiple professional organizations have made to assisting those who require rehabilitation.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 488.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 488) designating the week beginning March 16, 2008 as "National Safe Place Week."

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and

there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 488) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 488

Whereas the youths of the United States will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youths need a safe haven from various negative influences, such as child abuse, substance abuse, and crime, and youths need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the youths of the Nation;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting the youths of the United States, the Nation's most valuable asset, by offering short term safe places at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise young people seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas the Safe Place program combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations to reach young people in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas the Safe Place program provides a direct way to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach and community relations, as set forth in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.);

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youths;

Whereas more than 900 communities in 41 States make the Safe Place program available at nearly 16,000 locations;

Whereas more than 200,000 youths have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations and have received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place information the youths received at school;

Whereas, through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the United States, each year more than 500,000 students learn in a classroom presentation that the Safe Place program is a resource they can turn to if they encounter an abusive or neglectful situation, and 1,000,000 Safe Place information cards are distributed; and

Whereas increased awareness of the Safe Place program will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations for the youths of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of March 16 through March 22, 2008, as "National Safe Place Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to—

(A) promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program; and

(B) observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

PUBLIC RADIO RECOGNITION MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 489.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 489) designating April 2008 as Public Radio Recognition Month.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be and preamble be agreed to bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 489) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 489

Whereas the mission of public radio is to create a more informed public—one that is challenged and invigorated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of events, ideas, and cultures;

Whereas the programming and content created and distributed by public radio is based upon three core values—qualities of mind, qualities of heart and qualities of craft—and exemplifies the inherent meaning of localism by placing value and financial investment in local and regional assets to gather and distribute a collection of programming that informs and improves community;

Whereas public radio is known for distinctive, award-winning programming including Morning Edition, All Things Considered, A Prairie Home Companion, Marketplace, Speaking of Faith, and This American Life;

Whereas the United States' more than 800 public radio stations serve every State and every congressional district with news, information, cultural, and music programming that is unique to free radio;

Whereas some 33 million Americans listen each week to public radio programming;

Whereas the public radio audience has doubled in the past 15 years and increased by some 70 percent in the past decade;

Whereas public radio stations are licensed by community foundations, colleges, universities, school boards, libraries, and other local non-profit entities;

Whereas public radio stations are locally licensed, locally staffed, and locally programmed, and tailor their programming to meet the needs of local audiences;

Whereas public radio stations receive, on average, more than 85 percent of their annual funding from local sources;

Whereas public radio's public service also finds expression through a deep, rich music discovery, education and enrichment experience—both for its audience and for performers, singer-songwriters, musicians, lyricists, and composers—which places the highest emphasis on a value partnership with performers to bring all facets of music into the lives of its audience in a way that is found nowhere else;

Whereas public radio has preserved and enhanced the archetypal musical formats of American music history—jazz, classical, folk, blue grass, the blues, Celtic—and regards these formats as the priceless family treasures of public radio's musical foundations;

Whereas public radio is responding to its commitment to community and fact-based journalism with several initiatives including the Local News Initiative, a national effort to increase public radio's service to commu-

nities through investments in station capacity to provide in-depth, serious, and balanced news and Public Insight Journalism, a pioneering concept that uses citizens to help cover the news by sharing their observations, knowledge, and expertise;

Whereas public radio has embraced digital broadcasting technology because of its inherently inclusive nature and potential to expand public service programming; and

Whereas public radio exists to serve the public interest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the month of April 2008 shall be known as Public Radio Recognition Month, during which time all of America's public radio stations shall be celebrated for their contributions to our Nation's communities and enduring civic spirit.

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR HOWARD METZENBAUM

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 485 relating to the death of former Senator Howard Metzenbaum.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 485) relative to the death of Howard Metzenbaum, former United States Senator from the State of Ohio.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that Senator SHERROD BROWN be added as an original cosponsor of the resolution.

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

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, Senator Howard Metzenbaum was a progressive visionary whose strong support for America's workers and consumers left a lasting mark on our Nation. His determination to stand for a more just America in the Senate was an inspiration to me and everyone with whom he served. His influence and the example he set still resound strongly in the Senate chamber today.

I deeply appreciate how much support and guidance Senator Metzenbaum gave to me when I came to the Senate in 1993. He had a wonderful way of bringing progressives in Congress together, and I will always be very grateful for that.

He was a force to be reckoned with on the Senate floor—earning the nickname "Senator No" through ingenious tactics to stop legislation that threatening to hurt American workers and consumers. He was known for never backing down from a Senate floor fight, and his opposition spelled trouble for almost any bill.

America's workers had no better friend and ally in Congress than Senator Metzenbaum, who sponsored the law requiring 60 days advance notice for a plant closing. Whenever Congress acts to help those American workers struggling in a difficult economy, we are building on Senator Metzenbaum's legacy.

He also took on Washington's most powerful interests in an unrelenting