

Many organizations—including the Healthy Schools Network in New York—have worked together over the years to educate their communities as well as local, State, and Federal elected officials of the conditions that many of our children and teachers are subjected to on a daily basis. I strongly believe the work of these organizations is crucial in fostering the development and well being of our Nation's children. That is why I am proud to join them in this effort as the sponsor of resolution recognizing April 28, 2008 as National Healthy Schools Day. By recognizing this day, Congress can promote healthy school environments for all children, teachers, principals, and school staff.

Over half of our Nation's schools have environmental problems linked to poor indoor air quality AQ. Poor IAQ can cause a wide range of academic problems for the millions of children attending these schools, including lack of concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and even cancer. Furthermore, millions of school absences each year are attributed to health problems caused by poor IAQ or other unhealthy school environments.

It is imperative that we address these problems. From holding demonstrations on healthy cleaning practices to conducting workshops on how to design a healthy, high-performance school, the Healthy Schools Network along with other partner organizations will provide practical ways to make our schools healthier, safer learning environments for our children and teachers.

Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Healthy High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act. I encourage my colleagues to continue to fight on our children's behalf by adopting this resolution.

We must spread awareness of the environmental health of our Nation's schools. I commend those across the Nation who are using National Healthy Schools Day to do just that.

SENATE RESOLUTION 536—RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SEEDS OF PEACE, AN ORGANIZATION PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING, RECONCILIATION, ACCEPTANCE, COEXISTENCE, AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH ASIA, AND OTHER REGIONS OF CONFLICT

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 536

Whereas Seeds of Peace, founded by John Wallach, organizes and operates a program that brings together young people and educators from regions of conflict to study and

learn about coexistence and conflict resolution;

Whereas Seeds of Peace operates a summer camp in Otisfield, Maine, as well as regional programs around the world, such as the Facilitation Training Course in the Middle East, the Homestay Programs in South Asia, or the International Regional Conferences;

Whereas the first International Conflict Resolution Camp welcomed Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youth the summer of 1993, and the camp has since expanded to involve youths from other regions of conflict, including Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan;

Whereas Seeds of Peace utilizes the summer camp to initiate dialogue between the youth of the United States and youth from various conflict regions to dispel hatred and create religious and cultural understanding;

Whereas hundreds of educators receive training through the regional operations of Seeds of Peace to support and teach peaceful conflict resolution techniques in their classrooms, ensuring that thousands of students around the world are exposed to those techniques;

Whereas Seeds of Peace works to dispel fear, mistrust, and prejudice, which are root causes of violence and conflict, and to build a new generation of leaders who are committed to achieving peace;

Whereas Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of youth who are too often exposed to hatred, by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities, such as sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and exploring creativity through the arts and computers;

Whereas the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as India-Pakistan and Afghanistan-Pakistan tensions, are currently at critical junctures, and progress toward peace will be enhanced by the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will choose dialogue, friendship, and openness over violence and hatred;

Whereas Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities, through regional programming and the innovative use of technology, to enable former participants to build on the relationships forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp may continue in the participants' home countries, where they are most needed;

Whereas youth graduates of the camp, known as "Seeds," currently number more than 4,000, with an additional 567 adult delegation leaders also having completed the camp programming;

Whereas this graduate network receives continued support in promoting professional cooperation;

Whereas Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders;

Whereas Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates the recognized importance of Seeds of Peace in promoting the foreign policy goals of the United States; and

Whereas it is especially important to reaffirm that youth must be involved in long-term, visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of the founding of Seeds of Peace;

(2) honors the accomplishments of Seeds of Peace in promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict around the world; and

(3) recognizes Seeds of Peace as a model of hope for living together in peace and security.

SENATE RESOLUTION 537—COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KOHL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 537

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 safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of the peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front lines in protecting the schools and schoolchildren of the United States;

Whereas 181 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty during 2007, tragically the highest yearly total since 2001;

Whereas Congress should strongly support initiatives to reduce violent crime and to increase the factors that contribute to the safety of law enforcement officers, including—

(1) better equipment and increased use of bullet-resistant vests;

(2) improved training; and

(3) advanced emergency medical care;

Whereas, every 2 days on average, 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, 2008, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, District of Columbia, 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, 2008, as "Peace Officers Memorial Day", in honor of the Federal, State, and local law enforcement 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, appreciation, and respect.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to submit today a bipartisan resolution to designate May 15, 2008, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Joining me in the submission of this resolution are Senators SPECTER, KENNEDY, DURBIN, and KOHL. We join in recognizing the sacrifices that law enforcement officers make each day for the American people.

This is now the twelfth year that I have been involved in offering this resolution to honor the sacrifice and commitment of those law enforcement officers who lost their lives serving their communities. For many years I submitted this resolution with my old friend and our former colleague Senator Campbell, a former deputy sheriff. Both Senator Campbell, and I, as a former prosecutor, know well the risks faced by law enforcement officers every day while they serve and protect the American people.

We do not thank our Nation's law enforcement officers enough for the sacrifices they make in order to protect all of us. State and local police officers and all of our first responders deserve our support and respect. Their role is crucial in upholding the rule of law and keeping our Nation's citizens safe and secure. They help make our democracy possible. They are our here-at-home, day-in-and-day-out, real-life heroes.

Currently, more than 900,000 men and women who guard our communities do so at great risk. Since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 18,200 law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. There is lots of talk about the war on crime. Our law enforcement officers are all too often the casualties in that effort.

We are fortunate in Vermont that we rank as the State with the fewest officer deaths in history, with 19 recorded. But of course that is still 19 deaths too many. The pain and the suffering and the loss associated with every one of those is difficult for anyone to even imagine.

Last year, in 2007, 181 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty. That is a regrettable and significant increase from 2006. Tragically, it is the most line-of-duty deaths since 2001 and the losses from September 11 of that year.

With crime having risen during the last few years after a decade of decline, and with law enforcement officers' deaths increasing, Congress must do more to strongly support State and local law enforcement officers and agencies. Federal programs can bolster police departments and their support for line officers. We should help provide greater access to bulletproof vests, state-of-the-art technology, improved training and advanced emergency medical care. I believe that there is strength in numbers when it comes to fighting violent crime, and Congress owes it to all Americans to support the men and women who are on the front lines keeping America safe.

I am proud of the work I have been involved in to help make it safer on the beat for our officers. Back in 1998, Senator Campbell and I authored the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act in response to the tragic Carl Drega shootout on the Vermont-New Hampshire border. Two State troopers who lacked bulletproof vests were killed. Since then, we have successfully reauthorized this program three more times: in the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000, in the State Justice Institute Reauthorization Act of 2004, and most recently as part of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. It is now authorized at \$50 million per year through fiscal year 2009 to help State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

I hope all Senators will join me to ensure that the program is fully funded

for fiscal year 2009, and will also join with me to reauthorize this important program again this year. Bulletproof vests have saved the lives of thousands of officers and are a fundamental line of defense that no officer should be without. Hundreds of thousands of police officers are counting on us.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day will provide the people of the U.S., in their communities, in their State Capitals, and in the Nation's Capital, with the opportunity to honor and reflect on the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by our police forces. During the week of May 15, 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 approving this bipartisan resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2008, AS "DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños", or "Day of the Children", on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States and are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas, according to the latest Census report, there are more than 44,000,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States, nearly 15,000,000 of which are children;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and that encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans", a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2008, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to find the inner strength and the will and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 78—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ALL ENTERPRISES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD MAKE PROPER DISCLOSURES WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REGARDING THE SELECTIVE DEFAULT STATUS OF CERTAIN BONDS

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 78

Whereas sovereign debt obligations (in this resolution referred to as "bonds") of the Government of the People's Republic of China were offered and sold in the United States capital markets;

Whereas the bonds constitute full faith and credit sovereign obligations of the internationally recognized Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the China subsequently defaulted on the bonds;

Whereas the United States Foreign Claims Settlement Commission determined that the bonds constitute an unpaid general obligation of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas under the successor government doctrine of settled international law (establishing the continuity of obligations among successor governments), the repayment obligation for the bonds is the obligation of the