

the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, to conduct a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing entitled "Childhood Obesity: Beginning the Dialogue on Reversing the Epidemic" on March 4, 2010. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Middle East Peace: Ground Truths, Challenges Ahead."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010.

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

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS AND INTEGRATION

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Inte-

gration of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 1 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "The Next Big Disaster: Is the Private Sector Prepared?"

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2010, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Office Building.

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

NATIONAL AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 372, and we now proceed to that matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 372) designating March 2010 as "National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of autoimmune diseases and increase funding for autoimmune disease research.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that a Levin amendment which is at the desk and the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table; that 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 amendment (No. 3426) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3426

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

In paragraph (3) of the resolving clause, strike "Federal".

The resolution (S. Res. 372), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 372

Whereas autoimmune diseases are chronic, disabling diseases in which underlying defects in the immune system lead the body to attack its own organs and tissues;

Whereas autoimmune diseases can affect any part of the body, including the blood, blood vessels, muscles, nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, endocrine glands, and multiple organ systems, and can be life-threatening;

Whereas researchers have identified over 80 different autoimmune diseases, and suspect at least 40 additional diseases of qualifying as autoimmune diseases;

Whereas researchers have identified a close genetic relationship and a common pathway of disease that exists among autoimmune diseases, explaining the clustering of autoimmune diseases in individuals and families;

Whereas the family of autoimmune diseases is under-recognized, and poses a major health care challenge to the United States;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that autoimmune diseases afflict up to 23,500,000 people in the United States, 75 percent of whom are women, and that the prevalence of autoimmune diseases is rising;

Whereas NIH estimates the annual direct health care costs associated with autoimmune diseases at more than \$100,000,000,000, with over 250,000 new diagnoses each year;

Whereas autoimmune diseases are among the top 10 leading causes of death in female children and adult women;

Whereas autoimmune diseases most often affect children and young adults, leading to a lifetime of disability;

Whereas diagnostic tests for most autoimmune diseases are not standardized, making autoimmune diseases very difficult to diagnose;

Whereas because autoimmune diseases are difficult to diagnose, treatment is often delayed, resulting in irreparable organ damage and unnecessary suffering;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies reported that the United States is behind other countries in research into immune system self-recognition, the cause of autoimmune diseases;

Whereas a study by the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association revealed that it takes the average patient with an autoimmune disease more than 4 years, and costs more than \$50,000, to get a correct diagnosis;

Whereas there is a significant need for more collaboration and cross-fertilization of basic autoimmune research;

Whereas there is a significant need for research focusing on the etiology of all autoimmune-related diseases, in order to increase understanding of the root causes of these diseases rather treating the symptoms after the disease has already had its destructive effect;

Whereas the National Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups is a coalition of national organizations focused on autoimmune diseases, working to consolidate the voices of patients with autoimmune diseases and to promote increased education, awareness, and research into all aspects of autoimmune diseases through a collaborative approach; and

Whereas designating March 2010 as "National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month" would help educate the public about autoimmune diseases and the need for research funding, accurate diagnosis, and effective treatments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2010 as "National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month";

(2) supports the efforts of health care providers and autoimmune patient advocacy and education organizations to increase awareness of the causes of, and treatments for, autoimmune diseases; and

(3) supports the goal of increasing funding for aggressive research to learn the root

causes of autoimmune diseases, as well as the best diagnostic methods and treatments for people with autoimmune diseases.

EXPRESSION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF CHILE

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 431 and we now proceed to that matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 431) expressing profound concern, deepest sympathies, and solidarity on behalf of the people of the United States to the people and Government of Chile following the massive earthquake.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent 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. 431) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 431

Whereas the massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Chile in the early hours of Saturday, February 27, 2010, has claimed approximately 800 lives, according to government officials of Chile, and the death toll is expected to continue to rise as assessments of the devastation continue;

Whereas the earthquake hit most strongly in 6 central and south regions, from the capital, Santiago, and the nearby port of Valparaíso in central Chile, to the Bernardo O'Higgins, Maule, Bio Bio, and Araucanía regions of the south;

Whereas the regions most strongly hit are home to about 60 percent of the 17,000,000 inhabitants of Chile and account for approximately 70 percent of the gross domestic product of Chile;

Whereas the earthquake generated some tsunami activity, in addition to the earthquake, and several hundred people were killed in the coastal towns of Constitución and Talcahuano as a result;

Whereas many of the villages in the Juan Fernández archipelago were destroyed by tsunami activity;

Whereas the earthquake left an estimated 2,000,000 people homeless and damaged more than 1,000,000 homes, ⅓ of which may have to be demolished;

Whereas the earthquake, classified as a "megathrust" earthquake, unleashed an estimated 50 gigatons of energy and broke about 340 miles of the fault zone, according to the United States Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center;

Whereas aftershocks have continued, seriously complicating efforts to survey the damage and rescue survivors despite the noble efforts of local teams;

Whereas the Department of Defense has estimated that reconstruction costs could exceed \$30,000,000,000, equivalent to 20 percent of the 2009 gross domestic product of Chile;

Whereas damage to ports and other infrastructure will hinder important exports and economic recovery;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Chile on March 2, 2010, and promised

an extensive aid package, and the United States Ambassador to Chile requested emergency relief funding;

Whereas Chile enjoys excellent relations with the United States since its transition back to democracy, and both countries have emphasized similar priorities in the region, designed to strengthen democracy, improve human rights, and advance free trade;

Whereas Chile and the United States also maintain strong commercial ties, which have become more extensive since a bilateral free trade agreement between the two countries entered into force in 2004;

Whereas since 2004, the Government of Chile has worked with the Government of the United States and the international community as part of the multinational peacekeeping force in Haiti, first as a part of the Multinational Interim Force-Haiti (MIFH) and subsequently as a part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), committing more human material resources to MINUSTAH than it has to any previous peacekeeping mission; and

Whereas the Government of Chile and the Government of the United States and other regional partners have worked together in recent years to resolve a number of political issues in the Western Hemisphere, including crises in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Honduras, among others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern, deepest sympathies, and solidarity on behalf of the people of the United States to the people and Government of Chile following the massive earthquake;

(2) applauds the friendship between the Governments and people of the United States and Chile and recommit to mutually beneficial cooperation in bilateral, multilateral, and Hemispheric contexts;

(3) strongly encourages the United States Government, with full consideration of the necessary institutional instruments, to offer all appropriate assistance, if requested by the Government of Chile, to aid in the immediate rescue and ongoing recovery efforts undertaken by the Government of Chile; and

(4) encourages the international community to join in relief efforts as determined by the Government of Chile.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND CONTINUED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ENRIQUE "KIKI" CAMARENA

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL REPRESENTATION

AUTHORIZING RECORDS PRODUCTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following matters, en bloc, introduced today: S. Res. 441, S. Res. 442, S. Res. 443, S. Res. 444, and S. Res. 445.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be considered and

agreed to en bloc, the preambles be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 441

Whereas women of diverse ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, and racial backgrounds have made extraordinary contributions to each service of the Armed Forces;

Whereas today women volunteer to serve the Nation and distinguish themselves in the active and reserve components of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard;

Whereas the contributions of generations of women have contributed to the collective success of women in military service and the freedom and security of the United States;

Whereas women have served with honor, courage, and a pioneering spirit in every major military campaign in the history of the United States since the Revolutionary War;

Whereas Dr. Mary E. Walker was the first, and remains the only, woman awarded the Medal of Honor for her contributions to military medicine and selfless actions during the Civil War;

Whereas the role of women expanded during World War I, with women serving as medical professionals and telephone operators and in other support roles that were critical to the war effort;

Whereas, during World War II, women served in every military service and in every theater and received awards for their gallantry, including four Silver Stars;

Whereas the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 356, chapter 449) established permanent positions and granted veterans benefits for women in the Armed Forces and allowed women to serve during the Korean War as regular members of the military;

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, roughly 7,500 women served in the Armed Forces in Southeast Asia as Nurse Corps officers and in other vital capacities where they saved lives and supported their fellow service members;

Whereas, in 1976, the service academies first admitted women, and in 1980, the first women graduated from the United States Naval Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Coast Guard Academy;

Whereas women were assigned to the first gender-integrated units during the 1980s, with women serving alongside men in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada and Operation Just Cause in Panama;

Whereas an unprecedented 40,000 women deployed as uniformed members of the Armed Forces in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield;

Whereas, in 1991, Congress repealed laws prohibiting women from flying combat missions and in 1993 repealed the restriction on women serving on combat vessels;

Whereas, on June 16, 2005, Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester, an Army National Guard Military Police Soldier, became the first woman to receive the Silver Star since World War II for exceptional valor during an ambush on her convoy in Iraq;

Whereas, on November 14, 2008, General Ann Dunwoody became the first woman in