

all happens under a well-known symbol of safety for in-crisis youth.

Project Safe Place is a simple program to implement in any local community, and it works. Young people are more likely to seek help in locations that are familiar and non-threatening to them. By creating a network of Safe Places across the Nation, all youth will have access to needed help, counseling, or a safe place to stay. However, though the program has already been established in 42 States, there are still too many communities that don't know about this valuable youth resource.

If your State does not already have a Safe Place organization, please consider facilitating this worthwhile resource so that young people who are abused, neglected, or whose futures are jeopardized by physical or emotional trauma will have access to immediate help and safety in your community. To create more Project Safe Place sites in Idaho, the staff in several of my State offices have completed the training to make them Safe Place sites, and now have the skills and ability to assist troubled youth. In the coming years, Project Safe Place hopes that every child in America will have the opportunity to connect with someone who can provide immediate help by easily recognizing the Safe Place sign.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. 390) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S.RES. 390

Whereas the youths of today are vital to the preservation of the United States and 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 they 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 country'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 700 communities in 40 States make Safe Place available at nearly 15,000 locations;

Whereas more than 87,000 youths have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations and 88,000 youths received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place information they 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 Safe Place 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 communities to establish Safe Places for the youths of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of March 13 through March 19, 2006, as "National Safe Place Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION
BY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 391, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 391) to authorize representation by the Senate legal counsel in the case of Timothy P. Toms v. Alan Hantman, et al.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a civil action filed by a former employee of the Architect of the Capitol against an employee of the Senate along with various employees of the Architect of the Capitol and a Capitol Police Officer. The plaintiff in the case claims that the defendants conspired to retaliate against him in his employment because he had tried to report misconduct in the operations of the Architect of the Capitol. The plaintiff seeks damages from the defendants in this case for allegedly violating his constitutional rights.

The claims against the Senate employee, whose involvement in this suit arises solely out of her oversight role as a staff member on the Appropriations Committee, are subject to dismissal on numerous legal grounds, including failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and legislative and qualified immunity from suit. This resolution authorizes the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate employee in this case and to move to dismiss the claims against her.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 391) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 391

Whereas, in the case of Timothy P. Toms v. Alan Hantman, et al., No. 1:05-CV-01981, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the plaintiff has named as a defendant Carolyn E. Apostolou, Clerk of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Senate Committee on Appropriations;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Members, officers, and employees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Carolyn E. Apostolou in the case of Timothy P. Toms v. Alan Hantman, et al.

CONGRESSMAN BILL THOMAS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, before closing, I am going to make a brief comment—and there will be a lot more to say later in the year—on my friend and colleague Chairman BILL THOMAS in the House of Representatives.

He has an old saying: "I came here to make law." Well, when he retires at the end of his 14th term serving the 22nd District of California, Chairman THOMAS will be able to look back on an illustrious public career that not only made law but made history.

BILL THOMAS is smart. He is tenacious. He is steeped in the traditions of the House. He knows an awful lot about the traditions in the Senate as well. He has worked hard for over 25 years to deliver meaningful solutions to the American people.

As chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, the chairman has authored and managed some of the most significant legislation to come before the House. His skillful leadership has led to major victories in reducing trade barriers, cutting taxes, stimulating the economy, and protecting the interests of all Americans.

During the Medicare modernization debate, I spent 6 months in the chairman's Capitol office hammering out intricate, complex, tough, challenging policy details. I think it is fair to say that in those 6 months I had more than my lifetime's share of pistachios, which he always had sitting on that table and which habitually you could not help but dive into, as we talked about those many issues.

A former political science professor, he is known on both sides of the aisle for his keen intellect and also his political savvy. He is known for what has been called his "singular personality."

Over the years, he has been, at times, passionate; he has been emotional; he has been outspoken; he has been headstrong—all qualities that have propelled him even beyond the national stage.