

I'm here to express gratitude to the five brave firefighters who lost their lives in the battle against the Esperanza fire.

They gave the ultimate sacrifice. Their heroism will not be forgotten and so do their families' sacrifice as well.

My heart goes out to you, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters of the five firefighters who perished from Engine Crew 57: Captain Mark Loutzenhiser, Jess McLean, Jason McKay, Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Pablo Cerda.

These five men were on the front lines, protecting thousands of lives and tens of thousands of acres, when they were overwhelmed by the fire's flames.

They are truly heroes.

Mark Loutzenhiser, Engine Captain, was 43 years old. He had 21 years of service as a firefighter. Mark was loved and respected by so many in the Idyllwild community.

To Maria, I know little can be said that mutes grief and overwhelming loss with one exception—five beautiful children—Mark and Maria's enduring legacy.

To your five children, Jacob, Teesha, Savannah, and the twins Kyle and Seth, I say this: Your dad was a true hero. He was a coach, a mentor, a friend. He is great in all our eyes.

And to Mark's parents, Russ and Polly: You can be so proud of his contributions. He made a difference. He leaves a legacy: a grateful community—a wife—five children.

Jess McLean, Fire Engine Operator, was 27 years old. He had seven years of experience.

To his mother, Cecilia: Jess was a thoughtful young man, a model son. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jess's wife, Karen: You were married just three years ago. But those three years are packed with memories, dreams shared and you will find new strength because of these years.

Jason McKay, Assistant Fire Engine Operator, 27 years old. He had five years of Forest Service experience.

To Bonnie McKay, Jason's mother, you know that Jason lived out his boyhood dream of becoming a fireman.

To his fiancé, Staci Burger, you know Jason as a brave and decent man. Carry that with you, always.

Daniel Hoover-Najera, Firefighter, 20 years old and in his second season of firefighting. As a young man, he was determined to one day grow up and become a firefighter.

To his mother Gloria Ayala, his stepfather Efrén Ayala, his father and stepmother, Tim and Lisa Hoover, his brother Michael, his sister Monica, and his grandfather Patrick Najera, who helped raise him: I say this: Daniel will be missed by all those who knew him. He was a passionate young man, full of many talents, hopes and dreams. He was taken too young. But he leaves a strong heritage—hold onto it.

Pablo Cerda, 23 years old when he lost his life in his second season with the Forest Service.

To his father, Pablo, your son graduated from Riverside Community College's fire academy only last May. He paid his own way. His services, his terrible burns will not be forgotten by any of us.

And to his older sister, Claudia, your brother Pablo will be remembered for his strength and dedication. Be proud of him always.

The deaths of these five members of the Engine 57 crew represent a tremendous loss for this community, our State, and the nation.

As we move forward from this painful tragedy, we must work to protect ourselves from another fire like.

Just a few miles from here, in the mountains of the San Bernardino National Forest,

are over a half million acres of bark beetle infested forest. Nestled among these trees are the homes of roughly 150,000 people.

The five firefighters who lost their lives and the more than 2,500 firefighters who fought this fire had to prevent the flames from reaching the bark beetle infested areas, which would have likely caused a catastrophic fire taking with it, whole communities and thousands of homes.

Governor Schwarzenegger, Representatives Lewis, Bono, Baca and I have fought for increased funding to protect our communities from hazardous fuels.

We must recommit ourselves to this effort and remove these dead and dying trees and non-native brush that present such a great fire hazard.

And our firefighters must have the tools and training to do their jobs.

To the 34 families who lost your homes. I say this: We will help in any way we can. Our heartfelt feelings are extended to you.

To the firefighters here today, we owe you no less. Know that we value your service and commitment to fire prone communities up and down the state.

Finally, in closing—to the families of these five brave firefighters, I offer my sincerest and deepest condolences. My heart is truly with you.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent a Feinstein amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5192) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 5192

On page 1, line 5, strike "Act of 2005" and insert "Act of 2006".

On page 6, line 1, strike "fiscal year 2006" and all that follows through line 2 and insert the following: "fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010."

The bill (S. 994), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, as read the third time, and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that appropriate committees be discharged from and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions:

S. Res. 595, S. Res. 596, S. Res. 597, S. Res. 598, S. Res. 599, S. Res. 600, S. Res. 601, S. Res. 602, S. Res. 603, S. Res. 604, S. Res. 608, S. Res. 609, S. Res. 611, S. Res. 614, H. Con. Res. 384, S. Con. Res. 119, S. Res. 547, H. Con. Res. 175, and S. Con. Res. 101.

I further ask that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions that were introduced earlier today: S. Res. 618, S. Res. 619, S. Res. 601, and S. Res. 621.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amend-

ments at the desk be agreed to, the resolutions as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the preambles as amended, if amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, all en bloc.

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

LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

The resolution (S. Res. 595) recognizing the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as one of the premier science and research institutions of the world was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 595), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 595

Whereas the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was founded on August 26, 1931, by Ernest Orlando Lawrence, winner of the 1939 Nobel Prize in physics for his invention of the cyclotron, a circular particle accelerator that opened the door to modern high-energy physics;

Whereas the belief of Mr. Lawrence that scientific research is best done through teams of individuals with different fields of expertise left a legacy that has yielded rich dividends for the United States in basic knowledge and applied technology;

Whereas that distinguished legacy of accomplishment includes 10 Nobel Laureates associated with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and a dozen scientists of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who have won the National Medal of Science;

Whereas, in 2006, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory continues to be used to conduct research across a wide range of scientific disciplines with key efforts in fundamental studies of the universe, quantitative biology, nanoscience, new energy systems, environmental solutions, and the use of integrated computing as a tool for discovery;

Whereas scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory discovered the revolutionary new truth of the accelerating expansion of the universe, are pioneering the promising new scientific field of synthetic biology, and are harnessing the secrets of the genome to help solve the grand challenges of the world;

Whereas, through those accomplishments and others, including finding the antiproton, advancing energy efficiency and conservation technologies, deciphering the photosynthetic process, pioneering the field of nuclear medicine, and spearheading the development of alternative energy sources, scientists of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have played a critical role in advancing the world leadership of the United States in fundamental and applied sciences;

Whereas the national scientific user facilities of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory provide the highest level of scientific, engineering, and technical support to thousands of scientists each year whose published works continue to consistently enrich their respective research fields;

Whereas the newest user facility of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Molecular Foundry, opened its doors on March 24, 2006, to enable the design, synthesis, and characterization of nanoscale materials, thereby opening the door to unimagined scientific and technological advancements;

Whereas the Advanced Light Source of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is a

national user facility that generates intense light for scientific and technological research that, among other accomplishments, has helped reveal how bacteria resist antibiotics, how inexpensive and efficient solar cells can be fabricated, and how unique substances like quasicrystals possess properties never before seen by humans;

Whereas the National Center for Electron Microscopy of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory houses several of the most advanced microscopes and tools for micro-characterization in the world, including the One-Angstrom Microscope and the Spin Polarized Low-Energy Electron Microscope, that allow scientists to gain a basic scientific understanding of new energy-efficient materials, as well as to analyze the behavior of materials such as magnets, superconductors, ceramics, and high-temperature alloys; and

Whereas the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is the flagship scientific computing facility for the Office of Science of the Department of Energy, and is 1 of the largest facilities in the world that is devoted to providing computational resources and expertise for basic scientific research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding and unique role that the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has played over the past 75 years in the scientific and technological advancement of the United States and the international community; and

(2) congratulates the dedicated past and present scientists and researchers who have worked at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to make the institution 1 of the greatest research resources in the world.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 596) designating Tuesday, October 10, 2006, as “National Firefighter Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 596

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of all firefighters in the United States are volunteers who receive little or no compensation for their heroic work;

Whereas there are more than 30,000 fire departments in the United States;

Whereas thousands of firefighters have died in the line of duty since the date that Benjamin Franklin founded the first volunteer fire department in 1735;

Whereas 346 firefighters and emergency personnel died while responding to the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters respond to more than 20,000,000 calls during a typical year;

Whereas firefighters also provide emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, special rescue response, terrorism response, and life safety education;

Whereas, in 1922, President Harding declared the week of October 9 to be “Fire Prevention Week”; and

Whereas the second Tuesday in October is an appropriate day for the establishment of a “National Firefighter Appreciation Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates Tuesday, October 10, 2006, as “National Firefighter Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States.

NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDIA WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 597) designating the period beginning on October 8, 2006, and ending on October 14, 2006, as “National Hispanic Media Week” in honor of the Hispanic media of the United States was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 597), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 597

Whereas, for almost 470 years, the United States has benefitted from the work of Hispanic writers and publishers;

Whereas more than 600 Hispanic publishers circulate more than 20,000,000 copies of publications every week in the United States;

Whereas 1 out of every 8 citizens of the United States is served by a Hispanic publisher;

Whereas the Hispanic press informs many citizens of the United States about the great political, economic, and social issues of the day;

Whereas the Hispanic press of the United States particularly focuses on informing and promoting the well-being of the Hispanic community of the United States; and

Whereas, by commemorating the achievements of the Hispanic press, the Senate acknowledges the important role that the Hispanic press has played in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on October 8, 2006, and ending on October 14, 2006, as “National Hispanic Media Week”, in honor of the Hispanic Media of the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

A resolution (S. Res. 598) designating the week beginning October 15, 2006, as “National Character Counts Week” was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 598), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of National Character Counts Week, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations would focus on character education, would be of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 15, 2006, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

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

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

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

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 599) designating the week of October 23, 2006, through October 27, 2006, as “National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week” was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 599), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 599

Whereas lead poisoning is a leading environmental health hazard to children in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 310,000 preschool children in the United States have harmful levels of lead in their blood;