

each day. I commend the Senator PAT LEAHY and Representative LANE EVANS for their leadership in advocating for a landmine ban, building support in Congress, and seeking funding for humanitarian aid and landmine clearance activities. I support their efforts. Again, I applaud the message sent by the legislature in my State, and hope those in other States can do the same.

I ask that a copy of the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO NEGOTIATE A BAN ON ANTIPERSONNEL LAND MINES

We, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Special Session, most respectfully present and petition the President of the United States, as follows:

Whereas, antipersonnel land mines are munitions placed by hand under, on or near the ground or other surface area or delivered by artillery, rocket, mortar or similar means or dropped from an aircraft and that are designed, constructed or adapted to be detonated or exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person; and

Whereas, an average of 71 people, the overwhelming majority of whom are civilians, are killed or maimed every day by antipersonnel land mines; and

Whereas, the estimated 80,000,000 to 110,000,000 antipersonnel land mines strewn across at least 64 countries cause havoc in the economies of developing nations: refugees can not return home, farmers can not till the fields, relief shipments can not be delivered, herd animals can not approach water holes, health care systems are overwhelmed by land mine victims and clearance costs are extraordinary; and

Whereas, the ecological and economic impact of antipersonnel land mines has yet to be fully calculated as they render arable land useless and contribute to over-farming of suitable land; and

Whereas, the United States has been a major producer and exporter of antipersonnel land mines for most of the past 25 years; and

Whereas, the cost, to the American taxpayers of salaries, equipment, transportation and other needs, of removing antipersonnel land mines was approximately \$17,000,000 from 1989 to 1996 and will continue to adversely affect the civilian sector of the United States economy; and

Whereas, despite international momentum for a global ban on antipersonnel land mines, a recent United Nations conference failed to negotiate a ban; and

Whereas, at the Ottawa International Strategy Conference in Ottawa, Canada in October 1996, the governments of 50 nations adopted the "Ottawa process" recognizing the urgent need for a ban on antipersonnel land mines and outlined actions for reaching a ban rapidly in the hope of signing a treaty to ban antipersonnel land mines in Ottawa in December 1997; and

Whereas, in Cambodia, approximately one of every 236 people is an amputee from a land mine injury and there are approximately 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 uncleared land mines or approximately one for each citizen of the country; and

Whereas, Maine is home to refugees from Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, Africa, Central America, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and elsewhere whose lives have been and continue to be directly affected by loss of life, maiming and economic havoc caused by antipersonnel land mines, including those that the United States implanted during warfare in Southeast Asia or exported to other countries; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That We, your Memorialists, urge the President of the United States to fulfill his commitment to negotiate an international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and use of antipersonnel land mines, with a view to completing the negotiations as soon as possible, by active participation in the Ottawa process by which an international treaty banning antipersonnel land mines will be ready for signing in December 1997; and be it further

Resolved: That the appropriate bureaus, departments or agencies of the State of Maine coordinate with and assist, as far as practicable, community-based organizations or groups with rehabilitating victims of land mines who reside in Maine; and be it further

Resolved: That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented by the Secretary of State to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation and United States Secretary of Defense, William S. Cohen.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE ON
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we remember those who died for our country.

There is something both haunting and mysterious about Memorial Day that makes it a special day every year. At the first commemoration of Memorial Day, May 30, 1868, Senator James Garfield delivered an oration at Arlington National Cemetery in which he said: "I am oppressed with a sense of impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here, beside the graves of 15 thousand men whose lives were more significant than a speech."

Our forefathers chose this day wisely knowing that during this time of year, we say goodbye to the spring season, as we embrace summer: the warm weather, the green grass and leaves of the trees, the freshness of the air and abundance of flowers, the crack of bats, the inevitable fireflies, the conclusion of the school year and the commencement of so many young people into new phases of their lives.

In fact, those high school seniors turning tassels best represent the youth of the heroes we remember today. When I reflect on wartime, the thing I most remember was that everyone who served with me was so incredibly young. Too often, we forget that wars are

fought by the young—men and women in the prime of their lives—18-, 19-, 20-years-old.

Our fallen heroes were young men and women just embarking on life's journey, with dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers, teachers, and owners of small businesses. They look risks. They played ball and danced until dawn. They were strong and seemingly immune to danger. But when their country called them, they went without question and without delay.

And they soon discovered, like many before them and after, that there is nothing glorious about war. Nothing is glorious about leaving a husband or wife to answer the call to serve one's country. There is no glory in a young child crying out for their mother or father who is serving in a faraway land. And it is real pain and sorrow—not glory—that parents feel when they say their final farewells to their children at military funerals.

The glory of youth has been cut short by many wars. Cut short by wars fought in places we had never heard of and surely against people we had never met. And sometimes for reasons we did not fully understand. But we supported them then and remember them now. And we must not become complacent in remembering the great cause for which they fought. These true patriots were our country's best and brightest and they deserve much more than a single holiday in spring.

There is glory in remembering their service, but it is their disappearance through death that forever changes our own lives and those that loved them. For families of those who've fallen, it may be an empty room at home, a faded family portrait, grandchildren never coming to visit, or a vacation never shared.

And so as we remember these blessed names on our memorials, admire the presentation of colors, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, sing our national anthem, and pray together, let us listen deeply to the playing of Taps and remember those men and women who died in service to our country.

At the end of World War I, John McCrae wrote a now-famous poem called In Flanders Field that manifests the challenge we have before us as we remember those who died for our freedom.

In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; And in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Field
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Field.

Let us all remember our brave warriors and hold their torch high. Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless America.