

The Coalition is made up of over 180-member organizations who collectively pursue the goal of teaching that character does count and is essential for our nation's survival and success. Included in this group are the American Association of School Administrators, American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Little League Baseball, 4-H, National Honor Society and many regional and community-based organizations. They are all working to build awareness of the pillars of character and to encourage their teaching "from the family room to the school room to the locker room."

In my state of Mississippi, Ocean Springs is a Character Counts Community. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors programs that stress the importance of making good character traits an intrinsic part of the lives of students, teachers, administrators, and citizens.

The Ocean Springs Character Counts Business Club members display Character Counts stickers in their windows and help raise funds for the Chamber of Commerce. Each year, those funds are used for programs and materials to train teachers in the Ocean Springs public schools on better ways to incorporate character education into their regular curriculum.

The programs are designed for repetition and emphasize action and behavior. Youngsters are encouraged to express their thoughts about character through essays, poems, songs, artwork, posters or videos.

I am very proud of the people of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. They understand that teaching good character begins at home, but it must be reinforced at school and by the entire community.

Character Counts! Week is October 18-24 this year. I hope that communities will use this as a time for new and renewed commitments to character education.

If we all practiced what Character Counts teaches, America would be better indeed.

Ms. MIKULSKY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution submitted by my colleague Senator DOMENICI to designate October 18 through October 24, 1998 as "National Character Counts Week."

I have cosponsored this resolution for the past four years and I am honored to do so again this year.

Character is an increasingly important issue in our society. I believe character counts. It counts in our homes, our schools, and our neighborhoods.

I believe character is the foundation of our society and will continue to be into the next century. I have been concerned that we have gone from being a progressive society to being a permissive society.

Character shapes how we behave in our families, in our own communities, and in our own workplaces.

Character education helps our children grow into responsible and caring

adults. But character must be taught. It is our responsibility to teach character to children.

In this day and age of juvenile crime, particularly crime in schools, a renewed commitment to character education is even more important for our society.

Character development should be taught along with other core academic subjects. The state of Maryland has encouraged the inclusion of character education in schools. I support this approach.

There are six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These are values that last a lifetime.

Our country was built on the foundation of virtue and value. These are the ties that bind and the habits of the heart. Character encourages self-respect and the respect of others.

I believe in supporting character education as much as possible. In making sure that character counts, we will create the habits of the mind and the habits of the heart that will be the social glue that will hold our society together.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution. I believe in support for character education. It is even more crucial as we enter the next century.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the National Character Counts week resolutions submitted by my esteemed colleague, Senator DOMENICI. I have cosponsored similar resolutions for the past 4 years and am honored to have the opportunity to do so again this year.

I stand before you today, because children and adults alike are constantly being bombarded by violence, profanity, and immorality, both through the media and in every day life. This onslaught of negative images and expressions has expanded the issue of character from a casual concern to a matter of considerable social importance. During my tenure in the Senate it has been my goal, and the goal of many of my colleagues, to raise awareness of the importance of raising our younger generations in an atmosphere of strong principles. I can think of few things we could do to better achieve this goal than to bring the attributes of good character to a level that will be admired by our children. If, through our own actions, we demonstrate the value, and indeed the necessity, of good character, we may help turn future generations away from the all too often glamorized visions of unscrupulous activities.

As a father, I am concerned that the role models our nation's children seek for leadership and guidance do not exemplify the integrity and character that most parents would condone. As an elected leader, I believe it is my job, and the obligation of my colleagues, to take an initial step to reinvigorate the attributes of character—trust-

worthiness, respect, responsibility, justice and fairness, caring, civic virtue, and citizenship—which National Character Counts Week highlights. We need to regain these qualities in our communities, in our families, and in the development of our own lives.

Mr. President, as we watch our children blossom into the leaders of the future it is my hope that each and every one of them will be able to look up to individuals who epitomize the values and attributes that are represented by National Character Counts Week. I am proud to stand with my fellow colleagues today, to discuss the importance of having genuine character. The simple step of raising awareness of the value of good character can have a powerful and long lasting impact. In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "They say the world has become far too complex for simple answers. They are wrong. There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right."

Mr. President, I believe by standing before you today, the supporters of National Character Counts Week are taking the initial step in accomplishing what is morally right. We are, however, only a single piece in the puzzle. My colleagues and I, along with civic organizations around the Nation, are only emissaries of a message. The true fundamental values that will instill character in our children must begin at home. No amount of moral instruction from outside the home can replace the guidance of a loving and supportive family.

Recognizing a national week to stress the importance of character is but a small step in addressing the crisis of ethics the Nation faces. At the same time, it is an important step which I believe all of us should support. I would like to thank Senator DOMENICI for his continued leadership on National Character Counts Week, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor the resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 177— RELATIVE TO PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HAGEL, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered:

S. RES. 177

Whereas participation by the United States Armed Forces in combat operations in Southeast Asia during the period from 1964 through 1972 resulted in several hundreds of members of the United States Armed Forces being taken prisoner by North Vietnamese, Pathet Lao, and Viet Cong enemy forces;

Whereas the first such United States serviceman taken as a prisoner of war, Navy Lt. Commander Everett Alvarez, was captured on August 5, 1964;

Whereas following the Paris Peace Accords of January 1973, 591 United States prisoners of war were released from captivity by North Vietnam;

Whereas the return of these prisoners of war to United States control and to their families and comrades was designated Operation Homecoming;

Whereas many members of the United States Armed Forces who were taken prisoner as a result of ground or aerial combat in Southeast Asia have not returned to their loved ones and their whereabouts remain unknown;

Whereas United States prisoners of war in Southeast Asia were routinely subjected to brutal mistreatment, including beatings, torture, starvation, and denial of medical attention;

Whereas United States prisoners of war in Southeast Asia were held in a number of facilities, the most notorious of which was Hoa Loa Prison in downtown Hanoi, dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton" by the prisoners held there;

Whereas the hundreds of United States prisoners of war held in the Hanoi Hilton and other facilities persevered under terrible conditions;

Whereas the prisoners were frequently isolated from each other and prohibited from speaking to each other;

Whereas the prisoners nevertheless, at great personal risk, devised a means to communicate with each other through a code transmitted by tapping on cell walls;

Whereas then-Commander James B. Stockdale, United States Navy, who upon his capture on September 9, 1965, became the senior POW officer present in the Hanoi Hilton, delivered to his men a message that was to sustain them during their ordeal, as follows: Remember, you are Americans. With faith in God, trust in one another, and devotion to your country, you will overcome. You will triumph.;

Whereas the men held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict truly represent all that is best about America;

Whereas two of these patriots, Congressman Sam Johnson, of Texas, and Senator John McCain, of Arizona, have continued to honor the Nation with devoted service; and

Whereas the Nation owes a debt of gratitude to all of these patriots for their courage and exemplary service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude for, and calls upon all Americans to reflect upon and show their gratitude for, the courage and sacrifice of the brave men who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict, particularly on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, their return from captivity; and

(2) acting on behalf of all Americans—

(A) will not forget that more than 2,000 members of the United States Armed Forces remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict; and

(B) will continue to press for the fullest possible accounting for such members.

SENATE RESOLUTION 178—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF SENATE DOCUMENTS AND REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 178

Whereas, in the case of *United States f.u.b.o. Kimberly Industries v. Trafalgar House Construction*, Civil Case No. 97-0462, pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, documents have been requested from the offices of Senator Robert C. Byrd and Senator John D. Rockefeller IV;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the offices of Senator Byrd and Senator Rockefeller are authorized to produce documents in the case of *United States f.u.b.o. Kimberly Industries v. Trafalgar House Construction*, except concerning matters for which a privilege or objection should be asserted.

SEC. 2. That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent employees of Senator Byrd and Senator Rockefeller in connection with any subpoena or request for documents or testimony in *United States f.u.b.o. Kimberly Industries v. Trafalgar House Construction*.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT PROVISIONS EXTENSION ACT

MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT NO. 1645

Mr. COVERDELL (for Mr. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2472) to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted insert the following:

"SECTION 1. ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS.

"The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

"(1) in section 166 (42 U.S.C. 6246) by striking '1997' and inserting in lieu thereof '1999';

"(2) in section 181 (42 U.S.C. 6251) by striking '1997' both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof '1999';

"(3) by striking 'section 252(1)(1)' in section 251(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 6271(e)(1)) and inserting 'section 252(k)(1)';

"(4) in section 252 (42 U.S.C. 6272)—

"(A) in subsections (a)(1) and (b), by striking 'allocation and information provisions of the international energy program' and inserting 'international emergency response provisions';

"(B) in subsection (d)(3), by striking 'known' and inserting after 'circumstances' 'known at the time of approval';

"(C) in subsection (e)(2) by striking 'shall' and inserting 'may';

"(D) in subsection (f)(2) by inserting 'voluntary agreement or' after 'approved';

"(E) by amending subsection (h) to read as follows—

"(h) Section 708 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 shall not apply to any agreement or action undertaken for the purpose of developing or carrying out—

"(1) the international energy program, or

"(2) any allocation, price control, or similar program with respect to petroleum products under this Act.;"

"(F) in subsection (k) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows—

"(2) The term 'international emergency response provisions' means—

"(A) the provisions of the international energy program which relate to international allocation of petroleum products and to the information system provided in the program, and

"(B) the emergency response measures adopted by the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency (including the July 11, 1984, decision by the Governing Board on 'Stocks and Supply Disruptions') for—

"(i) the coordinated drawdown of stocks of petroleum products held or controlled by governments; and

"(ii) complementary actions taken by governments during an existing or impending international oil supply disruption.;" and

"(G) by amending subsection (l) to read as follows—

"(1) The antitrust defense under subsection (f) shall not extend to the international allocation of petroleum products unless allocation is required by chapters III and IV of the international energy program during an international energy supply emergency.;" and

"(5) in section 281 (42 U.S.C. 6285) by striking '1997' both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof '1999'.

"(6) at the end of section 154 by adding the following new subsection:

"(f)(1) The drawdown and distribution of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is authorized only under section 161 of this Act, and drawdown and distribution of petroleum products for purposes other than those described in section 161 of this Act shall be prohibited.

"(2) In the Secretary's annual budget submission, the Secretary shall request funds for acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products for storage in the Reserve. If no request for funds is made, the Secretary shall provide a written explanation of the reason therefor.'"

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that several hearings have been scheduled before the Full energy and Natural Resources Committee to consider the President's proposed FY 1999 budget.

The Committee will hear testimony from the following:

1. The Forest Service on Tuesday, March 3, 1998, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

2. The Department of Energy on Wednesday, March 4, 1998, beginning at 10:00 A.M., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

3. The Department of the Interior on Thursday, March 5, 1998, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

For further information, please call Betty Nevitt, Staff Assistant at (202) 224-0765.