

the centennial celebration of Philippine independence from Spain which initiated relations with the United States;

Whereas the people of the Philippines have on many occasions demonstrated their strong commitment to democratic principles and practices, the free exchange of views on matters of public concern, and the development of a strong civil society;

Whereas the Philippines has embraced economic reform and free market principles and, despite current challenging circumstances, its economy has registered significant economic growth in recent years benefiting the lives of the people of the Philippines;

Whereas the large Philippine-American community has immeasurably enriched the fabric of American society and culture;

Whereas Filipino soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder with American troops on the battlefields of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam;

Whereas the Philippines is an increasingly important trading partner of the United States as well as the recipient of significant direct American investment;

Whereas the United States relies on the Philippines as a partner and treaty ally in fostering regional stability, enhancing prosperity, and promoting peace and democracy; and

Whereas the 100th anniversary of relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines offers an opportunity for the United States and the Philippines to renew their commitment to international cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Philippines on the commemoration of its independence from Spain;

(2) looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with the Philippines in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines;

(3) supports the efforts of the Philippines to further strengthen democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and the expansion of free market economics both at home and abroad; and

(4) recognizes the close relationship between the nations and the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines and pledges its support to work closely with the Philippines in addressing new challenges as we begin our second century of friendship and cooperation.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

SINA NAZEMI, SENATE PAGE

Mr. GORTON. This is the last day that the Spring page class will be with us. And I am going to take a moment to recognize and thank this fine group

of young people for their invaluable assistance in the Senate. Their hard work keeps the Senate running smoothly on a day-to-day basis. All of our pages are accomplished students and involved in their schools and communities. However, I would like to specifically commend the page from my home State of Washington, Sina Nazemi, for his outstanding efforts. Even among this class of exceptional young people Sina has set himself apart.

Over the last 6 months I have had the opportunity to get to know Sina and while I recognized that he was a fine student and a personable young man, I have also learned that Sina is rather secretive. After six months of working in the Senate, today I learned that his peers chose Sina to serve as President of the page class. Today, the faculty and principal at the page school also recognized Sina with the Leadership Award and the Good Citizen Award. What initially prompted my recognition of Sina was his winning essay in the 1998 Law Day Essay Competition sponsored by the District of Columbia Courts and The Bar Association of the District of Columbia, which I only learned of last week.

Sina's essay is a well written piece on the importance of the first amendment that draws heavily on his first hand experience as an immigrant from Iran. He writes that the first amendment creates "a battlefield of ideas which allows the best ideas to emerge". I hope he was at least in part inspired by the "battlefield of ideas" that is evident each day on the Senate floor.

In addition to serving as class president, Sina kept pace with the rigorous academics at the Page School and the work schedule of the Senate. We keep these kids working so hard that Sina didn't even have the whole week of Easter recess off. I held an education forum in the state that week, and Sina served admirably as the moderator and spokesperson for the student group. All of this is done with diligence and enthusiasm. Sina has a great deal to be proud of yet, the modesty he shows reflect maturity beyond his years. These attributes will undoubtedly serve him well in his future. Sina, you have my best wishes and thanks for your service to the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to say farewell to a wonderful group of young men and women who have served as Senate pages over the last five

months, and thank them for the contributions they make to the day-to-day operations of the Senate.

This particular group of pages has served with distinction and has done a marvelous job of balancing their responsibilities to their studies and to this body.

Page life is not easy. I suspect few people understand the rigorous nature of the page's work. On a typical day, pages rise early and are in school by 6:15 a.m. After several hours in school each morning, pages then report to the Capitol to prepare the Senate Chamber for the day's session.

Throughout the day, pages are called upon to perform a wide array of tasks—from obtaining copies of documents and reports for Senators to use during debate, to running errands between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings, to lending a hand at our weekly conference luncheons.

Once we finish our business here for the day—no matter what time—the pages return to the dorm to prepare for the next day's classes and Senate session and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep.

Even with all of this, they continually discharge their tasks efficiently and cheerfully.

This page class had the good fortune to be present on the Senate floor for several landmark votes, including NATO expansion and IRS reform.

I hope before they leave they will see us pass a comprehensive national bill to reduce teen smoking.

It seems to me that would be a fitting way to thank these particular young people for their service to their country.

I hope every person in this page class gained some insight into the need for individuals to become involved in community and civic activities.

The future of our nation strongly depends on the generations who will follow us in this august body.

I look forward to the possibility that one or more of this fine group of young people will return as a Member of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, I would like to read into the RECORD the names and hometowns of each of the Senate pages to whom we are saying goodbye today.

They are: Philip Amylon, North Scituate, RI; Sarah Argue, Little Rock, AR; Marisa Boling, LaCrosse, WI; Sara Cannon, Seaford, DE; Colin Davis, Sioux Falls, SD; Laney Fitzgerald, Montgomery, AL; Sarah Flynn, Nashua, NH; Sarah Fowler, Kansas City, MO; Julia Le, Wilbraham, MA; Bari Lurie, Milwaukee, WI; Monique Luse, Farmington Hills, MI; Shana Marshall, Scottsburg, IN; Josh Melgaard, Pierre, SD; Sina Nazemi, Woodinville, WA; Georgia Sheridan, Santa Fe, NM; Michael Stahler, Lyndonville, VT; Angela Swanson, Springville, UT; Dan Teague, Concord, NH; Amanda Anderson, SC; Ashley Anderson, SC; Hunter Holmes, SC; Erin Lindsay, SC; Jennifer Lowry, UT; Stacie Seigler, SC; Tamarah Siegel, RI; and Bradley Wolters, WI.