

LANDRIEU), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 131, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the annual determination of the rate of the basic benefit of active duty educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 135

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 135, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve payments for direct graduate medical education under the medicare program.

S. 143

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 143, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to reduce securities fees in excess of those required to fund the operations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to adjust compensation provisions for employees of the Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to permanently reenact chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, relating to family farmers.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 207, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to introduce new technologies to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a uniform dollar limitation for all types of transportation fringe benefits excludable from gross income, and for other purposes.

S. 228

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the Native American veterans housing loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 231

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 231, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that seniors are given an opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and volunteers for certain programs.

S. 232

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 232, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude United States savings bond income from gross income if it is used to pay long-term care expenses.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to provide for enhanced safety, public awareness, and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 244

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 244, a bill to provide for United States policy toward Libya.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 6, supra.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should establish an international education policy to enhance national security and significantly further United States foreign policy and global competitiveness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 17—CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA ON THE CELEBRATION OF 53 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 7

Whereas February 4, 2001, is the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Britain;

Whereas the present constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been in existence since August 16, 1978, and guarantees universal suffrage; and

Whereas the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United States share many values, including a common belief in democratic principles, a commitment to international cooperation, and promotion of enhanced trade and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence;

(2) expresses best wishes to the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as they celebrate their national day of independence on February 4, 2001; and

(3) looks forward to continued cooperation and friendship with the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President with the request that the President further transmit such copy to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

SENATE RESOLUTION 18—RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK EL SALVADOR ON JANUARY 13, 2001

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 18

Whereas, on the morning of January 13, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake of a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale shook the entire nation of El Salvador, killing more than 700 people, injuring more than 3,000, and leaving more than 50,000 homeless;

Whereas the earthquake of January 13, 2001, has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused deadly landslides, and destroyed highways and other infrastructure;

Whereas the strength, courage, and determination of the people of El Salvador has been displayed since the earthquake;

Whereas El Salvador is still recovering from years of civil war, hurricane damage, and flood damage;

Whereas the people of the United States and El Salvador share strong friendship and mutual interests and respect;

Whereas some United States specialists from Costa Rica and Miami, including specialists from the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, were deployed to assist disaster relief efforts in El Salvador;

Whereas United States military personnel from the United States Southern Command are providing some technical assistance;

Whereas the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has set up an office in El Salvador's National Emergency Committee (COEN) to assist the office in its coordination efforts and to ensure access to the latest information; and

Whereas the United Nations launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance and initial rehabilitation to address the devastation caused by the powerful earthquake: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of El Salvador and other Central American countries for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquake of January 13, 2001;

(2) expresses its support for the people of El Salvador as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities and their lives;

(3) expresses support for disaster assistance being provided by the United States Agency for International Development and other relief agencies;

(4) recognizes the important role that is being played by the United States and other countries in providing assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador; and

(5) encourages a continued commitment by the United States and other countries to the long-term, sustainable development of El Salvador.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his tremendous leadership in this area for many years as it relates to Latin America. He is usually the first one on the floor to outline a strategy for U.S. assistance because he knows that we share mutual benefits in opening trade lines and expanding our cultural ties to this particular part of the world. I thank him for his leadership.

On behalf of the Senator from Connecticut and myself, I send a resolution to the desk and a bill that I will briefly describe.

Mr. President, the resolution simply calls the attention of the Congress to this particular dilemma in El Salvador, a country that has been wracked for decades by war, only to be hit 2 years ago by one of the largest and most destructive hurricanes. And now to face an earthquake is almost too much to describe.

As the Senator from Connecticut pointed out, the devastation has totaled about \$1 billion. To put that into perspective, that is 5 percent of El Salvador's entire GDP. The equivalent of 5 percent of the United States' GDP is \$500 billion. When hurricane Andrew struck, it was the largest natural disaster in our history at \$7 billion. So it is hard for us in America to understand what a natural disaster can do to a country whose economy is so fragile.

We are blessed in this Nation with an abundance of resources. We have the means and structures in place to deal manage such crises. When devastation like this hits other countries, they just reel. If we are not there quickly with assistance, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for them to recover.

Let me be quick to point out that the people of El Salvador will do everything they can to help themselves; they will work hard and struggle. But the U.S. must be quick to aid them. That is what our resolution calls for.

Our bill specifically calls for quite a modest amount, but a start, to aid the over 50 thousand people who lost their homes. There is an immediate need for shelter. That is how our bill will help in some way to complement what USAID is doing now.

I am happy to urge my friends and Members in the Senate and the House to come quickly to the aid of a country that needs so much help.

Mr. President, like many of my colleagues, I have watched the humanitarian calamity unfurl in El Salvador, with horror and sorrow. In the wake of a 7.6-size earthquake, the people of Central America are struggling to rebuild their lives. Still marred by hurricane and flood damage, they are desperate for help: to heal the wounded,

feed the hungry, and shelter the displaced. And now, my colleagues, tragedy has struck these people once again. Crisis has not spared the men, women and children of El Salvador.

Of course most of the destruction is difficult to quantify. The death toll is over 700, with nearly 3,000 people injured, over 50,000 estimated homeless, 46,000 evacuated, and 91,000 homes damaged or destroyed. In fact, as President Francisco Flores pleaded for international aid, he requested an additional 3,000 coffins.

As our Latin American neighbors desperately seek comfort in their faith and family, let us find solace in a passage from the Second Book of Corinthians: "Blessed be God . . . God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

The United States must rise to the occasion, and respond with aid. Perseverance has proven a critical trait for Salvadorans these last few weeks; we shouldn't count it to become a way of life.

Already, our ties with El Salvador run deep along both cultural and historic lines. On one score, El Salvador has stood by the U.S. as a strategic ally and crucial trading partner during and after the Cold War. On another, the U.S. remains home to millions of immigrants who have sought refuge from calamity in Central America. Helping Central America rebuild is of special concern in Louisiana. It may come as some surprise to my colleagues to learn that New Orleans, with one of the largest Honduran and Salvadoran communities in the U.S., is often cited as one of the largest Central American cities outside Latin America. And with organizations like Partners of the Americas, we are continuing to foment our bonds of friendship with Central America. The Louisiana Chapter of Partners already has two Medical Assistance and Emergency Preparedness teams set up for travel to El Salvador to work in delivery of health care and work with communities on future needs.

It was these strong connections and long history of humanitarian aid which induced us to respond to pleas for help after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. And for these reasons, I am introducing two pieces of legislation today. The first is a resolution to raise awareness of the circumstances in El Salvador. Simply put, I am sure that my colleagues will join me and Senator DODD in expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck El Salvador January 13, 2001.

The second piece of legislation is meant to complement USAID's current efforts to provide short term relief and establish preventative measures to prepare for future disasters. As USAID and the State Department help draft long term strategies for Central America, let us not neglect some immediate con-

cerns. One of the most pressing problems afflicting the Honduran people is lack of shelter. In the last Congress, I authored legislation with several senators on both sides of the aisle that provided \$10 million for the home building program for Central American countries affected by Hurricane Mitch. Today, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting a similar measure to help complete the work which we began. We must do all that we can to expeditiously provide homes for the more than 50,000 displaced persons through El Salvador. Time is of the essence.

In the last Congress, we witnessed a historic meeting in the Capitol's LBJ Room hosted by Senators LOTT and the late Paul Coverdell. There, four Central American Presidents made it clear to us that permanent housing along with opening trade opportunities were among the highest priorities for their recovery. The Republican leader and members of his caucus were very helpful in providing housing aid after Hurricane Mitch.

And yet, here we are, in the beginning of an entirely new Congress. People are once again homeless, and have no suitable means to protect themselves from future natural disasters. I will be working along with other colleagues on both sides of the aisle—to see that we do all we can in the area of housing in Central America. Let us begin today, with El Salvador. Then we shall extend our efforts throughout the region, to try and stop such devastation from occurring again. Let me assure our Central American friends of one thing, we will not turn our backs on you.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of El Salvador and India who are working so bravely towards recovery in the wake of the devastating earthquakes that recently struck those nations.

In the case of El Salvador, the death toll has exceeded 700, and countless numbers have been left injured and homeless. More than 68,000 people have been evacuated with no promise of ever returning, and 60,000 are living in temporary shelters. Indeed, in addition to the 74,000 homes that were so suddenly destroyed last month, another full 118,000 may have been damaged beyond repair, and in some areas, Mr. President, one quarter of schools were completely destroyed. While the cost of rebuilding is still being calculated, the El Salvador National Emergency Committee estimates that it most certainly will run to over \$1 billion, with an estimated \$100 million loss in agricultural revenue alone.

At the time of the quake the people of El Salvador were already hard at work rebuilding their country after the 12 years of civil conflict that had claimed the lives of 70,000 men, women, and children during the 1980's. Their suffering, as they struggle toward stability and development, has only been compounded by the natural disasters of

the past two years. After a dozen years of civil strife, the people of El Salvador were able to reach a political settlement of their differences. This speaks volumes about their commitment and courage. Since the 1992 peace accords, they have worked to build a prosperous and democratic country. This is a people tested well beyond what they should be asked to bear. At each step on the path to recovery they have faced a new challenge, and each time they have responded tenaciously and stepped forward again.

Mr. President, this earthquake is not the first time in recent memory that a natural disaster has brought devastation on such a wide scale to the people of El Salvador. In addition to this terrible earthquake, there has also been a serious outbreak of dengue fever, a serious and debilitating disease. And it was only two years ago that Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America, exacting an unbearable toll on an already fragile region. In the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, more than 11,000 lives were swept away in the rain, winds, and massive landslides that Mitch wrought. In some areas, more than 70 percent of crops were demolished. The price tag of that devastating hurricane soared to more than \$4 billion once a full accounting was made.

Mr. President, the people of El Salvador did not simply wring their hands in despair at the devastation of Mitch. They worked to improve their lives—they rebuilt roads, and schools, and homes. They began to address the needs of citizens dealing with painful losses and an uncertain future. They began to pull themselves, with the help of international monetary and humanitarian assistance, out of the darkness created by Mitch when they were struck again by another wanton force of mother nature. This earthquake, which registered a thundering 7.6 on the Richter scale, once again threatens to break the back of an already struggling nation.

Mr. President, the story unfolding right now in India is no less compelling and deserves our equal attention and concern. January 26th is traditionally a day of celebration in India, a day when people gather with their families in their homes to celebrate Republic Day, their constitution, and their country. But this January the clamor of parades and cheers was replaced by the roar of collapsing buildings torn down by an earthquake registering 7.9 on the Richter scale, the worst earthquake in India in a half century. Tremors were felt in Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh as the earth shook early that morning.

Hardest hit was Bhuj, a city of 150,000 in the Gujarat state, only 43 miles from the quake's epicenter. The government of India places the official death toll at more than 16,000, but estimates this figure could climb to a ghastly 100,000 in the days and weeks to come. Six hundred thousand people have been left

homeless, many of whom are sleeping out in the open, with too few blankets among them, for fear of returning to unsteady buildings. Many others simply have no place to go. As many as 35 million people have been affected in some way by the earthquake, a figure so staggering it is almost impossible to comprehend. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) places the cost of rehabilitation and reconstruction at \$1.3 billion.

The daunting task that now lies before us is to bring some measure of relief and care to those who were spared, including an estimated 3,000 orphaned children. Tragically, the state of Gujarat was particularly vulnerable to a natural disaster such as this, as one quarter of its citizens live below the poverty line and almost one half of households rely on public food distribution under normal conditions. In an emergency such as this, the situation becomes exponentially more dire than before. In addition to the desperate need for food, medicine, and shelters, many Indian officials now fear epidemics of cholera and typhoid if access to clean, safe, drinking water is not quickly restored. This task has been made all the more difficult because it comes in the midst of a 3 year drought in India which affected almost 3 million people in the state of Gujarat last year. The majority of water supply wells are caked with mud and temporarily out of service, promoting concerns that some who managed to survive the earthquake may instead succumb to disease while they wait for clean water. Certainly, the survivors of this earthquake should not be exposed to further suffering and injury.

Mr. President, we cannot and should not ask the governments of El Salvador and India, or their people, to walk the path toward recovery alone. At a time when these countries seek peace and development, we must be there as both an ally and a partner. We must not turn away from their suffering, but rather must respond swiftly and effectively.

In fact, international relief efforts are already in full operation in both El Salvador and India, providing basic necessities such as drinking water, food, blankets and temporary shelter to the quakes' victims. The United States government is actively participating in these international efforts through the work of USAID. At the time of the quake, USAID personnel in El Salvador immediately began meeting with Salvadoran relief agencies to evaluate the extent of the damage and the level of aid necessary. To date, USAID assistance to El Salvador totals more than \$5 million, the majority of which was allocated for temporary shelter programs. In addition, the World Food Programme has provided 900 metric tons of rations, the International Federation of the Red Cross has released \$100,000 of disaster relief funds as well as sent a delegation of relief workers to

assist the 1,200 person Salvadoran Red Cross. Medicines for hospitals and temporary clinics are pouring in from the Pan-American Health Organization, and the International Development Bank is considering a \$20 million emergency loan. Monetary and other contributions from additional organizations continue to arrive as well.

In India, USAID has pledged \$9 million in emergency relief, including emergency food distribution, airlifts, and temporary shelter equipment. Indeed, more than 38 countries have responded to India's cries, as well as several hundred non-governmental organizations including UNICEF, The International Federation of the Red Cross, and the World Food Programme.

It is my hope, Mr. President, that the Bush administration will recognize how desperately our help is still needed in El Salvador and India and will respond not only with continued short-term emergency relief aid, but also with a comprehensive plan for long term reconstruction and development. In the case of India that will require that waiver authority be exercised by the Administration to permit broader categories of assistance to be provided despite existing sanctions against that country. I would urge the Administration to do so.

I am confident that our colleagues in the Senate join with me in extending our prayers and our hands to the people of two nations who must persevere at very difficult moments in their histories. I am confident that with our help the lives of the peoples of these two nations will improve day by day.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Peter Winokur be granted the privilege of the floor during today's session of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Peters be granted floor privileges for the purpose of this debate. He is a fellow from the Commerce Department.

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

LORETTA F. SYMMS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, let me take a few additional moments to speak to the Senate about a friend of ours who has worked with us in the Senate for a good number of years. This week marks the last week of work for the Senate in the career of Loretta Symms. Loretta, as I mentioned, has become a friend of all of us while she has worked in the Senate.

Loretta, who is originally from Coeur d'Alene, ID, moved to Washington in the midseventies and began her career working for then-Congressman Steve Symms as executive assistant and office manager. In 1981, after Congressman Symms was elected to the Senate,