committed to this, and hope that this important step forward will help build the good will and bipartisanship necessary to deliver on all of our long-term goals in the years ahead.

I want to especially thank my primary cosponsor, Senator MIKE DEWINE, who has been a passionate leader on adoption and child welfare reform for many years. Senator DEWINE was a leader in 1997 on improving the reasonable efforts standards to ensure that a child's health, safety, and need for a permanent home are priorities. This change and others have helped reform the system and dramatically increase adoptions.

I also want to thank and recognize the strong bipartisan support from all of my Senate colleagues for our original bill, including Senators BINGAMAN, BOND, BREAUX, CHAFEE, COLLINS, CRAIG, DEWINE, GRAHAM, JOHNSON, KERRY, LANDRIEU, LEVIN, LIEBERMAN, LINCOLN, AND SNOWE.

In West Virginia, adoptions are increasing, thanks to both the reforms set in 1997 under the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and the new investments. My state needs increased funding to help develop local community-based programs, so our children can get needed services in their own communities and not be sent out-of-state, away from family, friends and familiar schools. I am proud of my State for its improvement, but we all understand much more must be done, in West Virginia and nationwide, for these vulnerable children who depend on our efforts.

Today's action provides a good foundation, but we must continue working in a bipartisan manner to build upon today's action, and achieve all of the goals we share.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001. This legislation continues our support for state efforts to reunify troubled families and to promote the adoption of children in foster care who are unable to return to their birth homes. It also authorizes additional educational assistance to former foster children in the Independent Living program. Abused and neglected children are among the most vulnerable of all the members of our society—it is important that we continue to look after their needs.

This proposal mirrors that made by the President. I thank him for his interest in this issue. It is an important part of being a compassionate leader, ensuring that federal efforts to assist abused and neglected children continue. It also contains a new proposal offered by the President, authorizing a new grant program to mentor the children of prisoners, a particularly disadvantaged group. I commend him for that idea.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2873) was read the third time and passed.

THE USE OF TRUST LAND AND RESOURCES OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 483, and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 483) regarding the use of the trust land and resources of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

The bill (H.R. 483) was read the third time and passed.

HONORING THE NATIONAL GUARD ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 365TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 93, submitted earlier today by Senators LEVIN, WARNER, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 93) recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of the 365th anniversary of its historic beginning with the founding of the militia of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am privileged today to introduce a concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of the 365th anniversary of its historic beginning with the founding of the milita of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

This resolution is cosponsored by all members of the Armed Services Committee, the Majority Leader, Senator DASCHLE, the Republican Leader, Senator LOTT, the co-chairs of the U.S. Senator National Guard Caucus, Senators LEAHY and BOND, and Senator ROCKEFELLER. I invite all other members to join with me in cosponsoring this concurrent resolution.

It is significant that we appropriately recognize the 365th anniversary of the National Guard, which serves our Nation 365 days a year. National Guardsmen and women respond to every crisis that affects American citizens, from natural disasters to terrorist attacks.

As one of the Members of Congress who visited the ruins of the World Trade Center just days after the September 11th attacks, I will never forget that Guardsmen were among the first to respond. More than 4,000 Army National Guardsmen from New York rushed to lower Manhattan to help to remove debris, rescue victims, treat the injured, and provide security. Today, National Guard personnel are flying combat patrols over American cities; they are providing security at our nation's airports, and they even provide security for us here on Capitol Hill. In my home state of Michigan, they stand guard at crossings along the Canadian border.

These citizen soldiers and airmen are indispensable to our Nation's security and to U.S. military operations. They have fought in every major American conflict since the colonial wars of the 17th century, and they are an integral part of all of our ongoing military operations today.

I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the many achievements of the National Guard on this historic day.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am delighted to join Chairman LEVIN and others in cosponsoring this resolution to honor the National Guard on the occasion of its 365th anniversary.

The men and women of today's National Guard have inherited a proud tradition of military service dating back to colonial days and extending throughout this Nation's history. Today, they are adding to this tradition. National Guard units are integrally involved in military operations in Bosnia, over Iraq, and against the al Qaeda terrorist network and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Our citizen soldiers and airmen are diligently performing their homeland security mission as part of Operation Noble Eagle. This service includes augmenting airport security operations at Virginia's nine commercial service airports.

No element of the National Guard has a prouder, more distinguished record of service that that of the Virginia National Guard. I need only mention the 29th Infantry Division and its superb service in the D-Day invasion at Normandy. In seven minutes that awful day, one company of that Division's 116th Infantry Regiment lost 96 percent of its fighting force. Twenty-six Bedford, Virginia, men went ashore. Nineteen were killed, including the company commander and first sergeant. Today, Guardsmen of that same unit are leading the U.S. sector's multinational Stabilization Force in Tuzla,

Bosnia. I was privileged to visit those Guardsmen in Bosnia over this past Thanksgiving week.

The National Guard is critically important to the national security of the United States, and that has never been more true than in the war against terrorism we are involved in today. We honor the commitment and sacrifies of the 458,400 citizen soldiers and airmen of the National Guard, their families, their employers, and their communities. I congratulate the National Guard, all its personnel, and particularly Major General Claude Williams, the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard, and all soldiers and airmen of the Virginia National Guard on this important milestone.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the 365th anniversary of a true American institution: The National Guard. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is fitting to pay a special anniversary tribute to our citizen-soldiers, the oldest of America's armed forces.

The National Guard dates back to the first Americans. Responsible for their own defense, the colonists drew on English military tradition and organized their able-bodied male citizens into militias.

These early colonial militias protected citizens from Indian attacks, foreign adversaries and eventually successfully waged our Nation's war for independence. Following independence, the framers of the Constitution empowered Congress to ''provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.'' Thus commenced the historic dual role of the National Guard as a state and a Federal force.

My home State of Minnesota formed a Territorial Enrolled Militia in 1850, and in April 1856 the first uniformed, volunteer company was formed in St. Paul. Called the Minnesota Pioneer Guards, it was a source of pride and inspired the subsequent formation of nine sister companies in St. Paul, St. Anthony, Minneapolis, and in river towns from Stillwater to Winona. From these roots grew the Minnesota National Guard on which we depend so greatly. Each State has a similar, distinguished inspirational story.

Throughout the 19th Century, the size of the regular U.S. Army was small. The militia provided the bulk of the troops during the Mexican War, the early months of the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. The National Guard comprised 40 percent of American troops deployed in France during World War I. In World War II, National Guard units were among the first to deploy overseas and the first to fight. Following World War II, National Guard aviation units, some of them dating back to World War I, because the Air National Guard, the Nation's newest Reserve component.

September 11 ushered in a new chapter in the storied history of our heroes in the National Guard. We called on them to secure our Nations' most vital infrastructure from terrorists committed to evil and violence. They did not hesitate to leave their jobs and families to answer the call to protect the American freedoms we hold so dear.

Today the National Guard continues to provide the States' trained and ready units equipped to protect life and property at home. And it stands ready to defend the United States and its interests all over the globe. Whether called upon by governor or President, from the village streets of Bosnia, to the terminals of our own Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, our coworkers and neighbors in the National Guard continue to answer the call to defend freedom.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 93) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the concurrent resolution with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

VETERANS EDUCATION AND BENEFITS EXPANSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (H.R. 1291).

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1291) entitled ''An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of educational benefits for veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill'', with the following House amendment to Senate amendments:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Increase in rates of basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill.
Sec. 102. Increase in rates of survivors' and dependents' educational assistance.
Sec. 103. Restoration of certain education benefits of individuals being ordered to active duty.
Sec. 104. Accelerated payments of educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill for education leading to employment in high technology industry.
Sec. 105. Eligibility for Montgomery GI Bill benefits of certain additional Vietnam era veterans.
Sec. 106. Increase in maximum allowable annual Senior ROTC educational assistance for eligibility for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.
Sec. 107. Expansion of work-study opportunities.
Sec. 108. Eligibility for survivors' and dependents' educational assistance of spouses and surviving spouses of veterans with total service-connected disabilities.
Sec. 109. Expansion of special restorative training benefit to certain disabled spouses or surviving spouses.
Sec. 110. Inclusion of certain private technology entities in definition of educational institution.
Sec. 111. Distance education.

TITLE II—COMPENSATION AND PENSION PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Modification and extension of authorities on presumption of service-connection for herbicide-related disabilities of Vietnam veterans.
Sec. 202. Payment of compensation for Persian Gulf War veterans with certain chronic disabilities.
Sec. 203. Preservation of service connection for undiagnosed illnesses to provide for participation in research projects by Persian Gulf War veterans.
Sec. 204. Repeal of limitation on payments of benefits to incompetent institutionalized veterans.
Sec. 205. Extension of round-down requirement for compensation cost-of-living adjustments.
Sec. 206. Expansion of presumptions of permanent and total disability for veterans applying for nonservice-connected pension.
Sec. 207. Eligibility of veterans 65 years of age or older for veterans' pension benefits.

TITLE III—TRANSITION AND OUTREACH PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Authority to establish overseas veterans assistance offices to expand transition assistance.
Sec. 302. Timing of preseparation counseling.
Sec. 303. Improvement in education and training outreach services for separating servicemembers and veterans.
Sec. 304. Improvement of veterans outreach programs.

TITLE IV—HOUSING MATTERS

Sec. 401. Increase in home loan guaranty amount for construction and purchase of homes.
Sec. 402. Native American veteran housing loan pilot program.
Sec. 403. Modification of loan assumption notice requirement.
Sec. 404. Increase in assistance amount for specially adapted housing.
Sec. 405. Extension of other housing authorities.
Sec. 406. Clarifying amendment relating to eligibility of members of the Selected Reserve for housing loans.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Increase in burial benefits.
Sec. 502. Government markers for marked graves at private cemeteries.
Sec. 503. Increase in amount of assistance for automobile and adaptive equipment for certain disabled veterans.
Sec. 504. Extension of limitation on pension for certain recipients of medicaid-covered nursing home care.