

S. CON. RES. 68

Whereas Johnny Cash was one of the most influential and recognized voices of American music throughout the world, whose influence spanned generations and musical genres;

Whereas Johnny Cash was born on February 26, 1932, in Kingsland, Arkansas, and moved with his family at the age of 3 to Dyess, Arkansas, where the family farmed 20 acres of cotton and other seasonal crops;

Whereas those early years in the life of Johnny Cash inspired songs such as "Look at Them Beans" and "Five Feet High and Rising";

Whereas Johnny Cash eventually released more than 70 albums of original material in his lifetime, beginning with his first recording in 1955 with the Tennessee Two;

Whereas Johnny Cash was a devoted husband to June Carter Cash, a father of 5 children, and a grandfather;

Whereas Johnny Cash received extensive recognition for his contributions to the musical heritage of the Nation, including membership in the Grand Old Opry; induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and his receipt of numerous awards, including Kennedy Center Honors, 11 Grammy awards, and the 2001 National Medal of Arts;

Whereas Johnny Cash embodied the creativity, innovation, and social conscience that define American music;

Whereas Johnny Cash was a vocal champion of the downtrodden, the working man, and Native Americans; and

Whereas the Nation has lost one of its most prolific and influential musicians with the death of Johnny Cash on September 12, 2003, in Nashville, Tennessee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Johnny Cash;

(2) recognizes and honors Johnny Cash for his invaluable contributions to the Nation, Tennessee, and our musical heritage; and

(3) extends its condolences to the Cash family on the death of a remarkable man.

THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as we look back over the last several days, over the course of the week, even though it will be cut short by the impending weather, we have had a very productive week.

We addressed H.R. 2754, which is the energy and water appropriations bill, led by Senator PETE DOMENICI, and over the course of that bill disposed of over 20 amendments over a 2-day period.

The House message to accompany S. 3, the partial-birth abortion ban bill, led on our side by Senator SANTORUM, was completed this week, and now conferees can be appointed and that important piece of legislation addressed in conference and then sent to the President of the United States for his signature.

We also completed S.J. Res. 17, the FCC disapproval resolution. Then, yesterday, we confirmed an additional five U.S. district judges. As I pointed out yesterday, we still have six judges ready to come to the floor, and we will attempt to bring those to the floor as

soon as we possibly can. I would like to get all of those done early next week.

We also, this week, began the Interior Appropriations bill, which we will continue this morning and Monday and aim for completion on Tuesday.

Mr. President, I note, in a few minutes, we are going to be going to the Interior bill, but I would like, at the appropriate time, to make a statement on a recent mission trip that I took to Africa.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2691, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 1731, to prohibit the use of funds for initiating any new competitive sourcing studies.

Reid amendment No. 1732, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain lands located in Nye County, Nevada.

Reid amendment No. 1733, to provide for the conveyance of land to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the construction of affordable housing for seniors.

Daschle amendment No. 1734, to provide additional funds for clinical services of the Indian Health Service, with an offset.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator from Montana.

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

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

HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, last month I had the privilege of traveling to the southern African nations of South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, and Namibia, along with five of our colleagues in the Senate. I try to visit the continent of Africa at least once a year. Part of the trip is generally spent doing medical mission work and part of it doing more official business. Over the next several minutes I will reflect a bit upon what we learned as a group with my colleagues on the official part of the recent trip.

As in previous trips, I was again struck by the optimism, the perseverance, the courage of the people I met on the African continent, impressed by

their openness, impressed by their warmth, impressed by their generosity and by their hospitality.

The purpose of our mission was very focused and straightforward. It was not just going and looking at the countries and getting a feel for their governments and overall approach to ruling and to the people there but to determine how best the United States, with others, can coordinate efforts to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic which, as I have said many times before, I believe is the greatest humanitarian, moral, and public health challenge of the last 100 years.

Several of my colleagues have already come to the floor and offered some of their reflections and impressions on our recent visit to the continent. I thank Senators WARNER, DEWINE, ENZI, ALEXANDER, and COLEMAN for their comments and for joining our delegation to study HIV/AIDS in Africa, as well as Dr. Joe O'Neill, who is Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, who accompanied us as well. Dr. O'Neill, who has vast experience as both a physician and someone who has focused on HIV/AIDS, both in the clinic delivering care and in terms of education and research, and now public policy, was a tremendous resource for us. In addition, it allowed us to integrate our ideas on an ongoing basis on this particular trip.

I thank all of them for their thoughts, their remarks, their questions, and comments as we traveled through the southern aspect of Africa, as well as their remarks on the floor since.

In sum, our team had a very productive trip. We met with patients, doctors, nurses. We met with community leaders, activists. We met with the presidents of the countries and other government officials who have been trying to fight and are continuing to fight on the front line this deadly epidemic—this group of people all working together from different vantage points to bring hope and relief to millions and millions of people who are HIV positive, have the manifestations of that infection, which is AIDS, a disease today for which we have no cure.

No part of the world has been more affected by HIV/AIDS than southern Africa, although we all know that the rate of growth was tremendous in Russia and throughout the Caribbean. There are probably more people in India than any other country in the world with HIV/AIDS. But in Africa, where this disease had its impact initially, we see what indeed can happen and is happening to countries throughout the world.

The story of the impact in Africa needs to be told in a way that people understand in order to encourage support of the global community in reversing this epidemic. Graca Machel, who is a truly remarkable former first lady of Mozambique, told us that because of HIV/AIDS:

We are facing extinction. We still face the worst of the epidemic.