

school performance and attendance, self-confidence, attitudes and relationships with adults, and motivation to reach their potential;

Whereas mentoring is an adaptable, flexible approach that can be tailored to focus on helping young people with academics, social skills, career preparation, or leadership development;

Whereas over 15,000,000 young people in this Nation still need mentors, falling into a "mentoring gap";

Whereas mentoring relies principally on volunteer mentors, so mentoring programs must recruit even more volunteers in order to expand their program to help more young people;

Whereas, in an effort to begin closing the mentoring gap, this year Congress has significantly increased Federal grant funding for local mentoring organizations to \$100,000,000;

Whereas the recipients of these grants and other entities carrying out mentoring programs all across the country will need an influx of volunteers to meet the growing demand for mentoring;

Whereas nonprofit groups and leading media companies have joined together to designate January 2004 as National Mentoring Month to recruit more mentors for young people; and

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more adults to volunteer their time as mentors for young people and enlist the involvement of nonprofit organizations, schools, businesses, faith communities, and government agencies in the mentoring movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1)(A) designates the month of January 2004 as "National Mentoring Month"; and

(B) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of and volunteer involvement with mentoring;

(2) praises individuals who are already giving their time to mentor young people; and

(3) supports efforts to recruit more adults as mentors, in an effort to close the Nation's mentoring gap.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senator KENNEDY in introducing a resolution designating January 2004 as "National Mentoring Month."

We all agree that young people need a supportive environment based on structured and trusting relationships with adults. Mentors play a significant role in many young peoples' lives by sharing their experiences and providing the support and encouragement that children need in order to grow into responsible, caring adults. Mentors often are the key to helping a young person achieve the type of future they might never have thought possible.

A growing body of research has shown the tremendous benefits of mentoring. Children with mentors are shown to improve in school performance and attendance; they are more self-confident; they have good social skills; and above all else, they're motivated to reach their full potential. Mentoring works. Unfortunately, a severe shortage of volunteers has left over 15 million young people without mentors.

National Mentoring Month highlights the needs and goals of mentoring

in this country. This month, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses, faith communities, and government agencies will join together to encourage adults to serve as mentors for our young people. Programs must be expanded to recruit more volunteers to help fill the mentoring gap. Mentoring has successfully helped many children in this country and we must work together to expand such valuable programs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87—WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 87

Whereas for more than 50 years a strategic partnership has existed between the United States and Turkey that has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both countries;

Whereas the United States and Turkey share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundations for peace, prosperity, and progress;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has demonstrated its unequivocal support for the war against terrorism throughout the world, and has called for the international community to unite against this threat;

Whereas Turkey commanded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from June 2002 to February 2003 and provided humanitarian and medical assistance in Afghanistan and in Iraq;

Whereas in October 2003 Turkey became the first predominantly Muslim state to authorize sending peacekeepers to Iraq when the Turkish Parliament voted to approve a deployment of 10,000 troops;

Whereas the people of Turkey also have been victims of international attacks on November 15, 2003, and November 20, 2003;

Whereas the Government of Turkey immediately condemned the terrorist attacks in the strongest possible terms, detained the perpetrators, and quickly brought them to justice.

Whereas the terrorist attacks in Turkey brought the United States and Turkey closer together, in spite of the terrorists' motive of driving the two countries apart;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has made its bases in Incirlik available as a transit point for United States troops returning to the United States from Iraq;

Whereas Prime Minister Erdoğan supports a renewed effort by the United Nations to reunify the divided country of Cyprus;

Whereas the United States supports Turkey's bid for membership in the European Union;

Whereas Turkey and Israel, the only democracies in the Middle East, established diplomatic relations in 1949, and have a multi-faceted and thriving relationship; and

Whereas Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan brings a strong message from the Turkish people that Turkey will continue to support the United States campaign against international terrorism as well as United States efforts to rebuild and bring democracy and stability to Afghanistan and Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) offers its warmest welcome to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan upon his visit to the United States from January 26 through 31, 2004;

(2) asks Prime Minister Erdoğan to communicate the continuing support of Congress and of the people of the United States to the people of Turkey;

(3) recognizes that the visit of Prime Minister Erdoğan to the United States is a significant step toward broadening and deepening the strategic partnership, friendship and cooperation between the United States and Turkey;

(4) acknowledges Prime Minister Erdoğan's support for renewed negotiations in Cyprus; and

(5) thanks Prime Minister Erdoğan and the people and government of Turkey for—

(A) assuming command of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan from June 2002 to February 2003;

(B) providing humanitarian and medical assistance in Afghanistan and in Iraq; and

(C) their willingness to contribute to international peace, stability, and prosperity, especially in the greater Middle East region.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution welcoming the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to the United States. Prime Minister Erdoğan is visiting this week for important meetings with President Bush and other senior Administration officials to discuss significant issues that affect both of our countries. I am pleased that my colleagues Senator BIDEN and Senator ALLEN have joined me in offering this resolution at this time.

Prime Minister Erdoğan represents a country of great importance to the United States, one with whom we have a shared history of fighting Soviet aggression as partners in NATO, and one with whom we are joined in fighting terrorism today. Turkey has shown its willingness to support American objectives in Afghanistan—where it commanded the International Security Assistance Force for seven months, and where its soldiers continue to serve side-by-side with American troops—and in post-war Iraq, where it has authorized sending peacekeeping troops and has contributed humanitarian supplies for the Iraqi people.

Furthermore, Turkey shares our democratic values and love of freedom. These ideals have brought enormous benefits to its people and serve as an excellent example for its neighbors that secular Islam and democracy can coexist peacefully and constructively.

I am confident that the visit of Prime Minister Erdoğan will further cement the strategic partnership between Turkey and the United States. I welcome him to the United States.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.