

of miners and their families when we passed the Coal Act in 1992. Unfortunately, we have recently seen bankruptcy courts disregard the Coal Act and absolve companies of their obligations to provide health benefits for workers and retirees. This is unacceptable. And the bill I am introducing today reiterates that the bankruptcy code does not supercede the Coal Act.

This year another company has abandoned promises it made to workers and retirees in West Virginia. Horizon Natural Resources sought and received a court ruling that releases it from its contracts with union miners and allows it to avoid honoring health care benefit obligations for over 2,300 retired miners. This is a morally bankrupt corporate strategy, and is inconsistent with the Coal Act passed by Congress in 1992.

The Coal Act was needed in 1992 to prevent some companies from walking away from their clear contractual obligations and agreements with their workers. One of the provisions of that bill was written especially with the intent of not allowing companies to simply reorganize as a way to get out of their obligations to their workers. Unfortunately, too many companies are increasingly using bankruptcy courts to achieve the same results.

It should not be necessary for me to introduce this bill today. Congress has already spoken on this subject. The law is clear: Coal Act retirees are entitled to full benefits provided under the statute. No judge should rewrite the law to take those benefits away. However, because judges are legislating from the bench, it will be helpful for Congress to reiterate our intention to protect the health benefits of coal miners and their families.

I recognize that the 108th Congress is coming to a close. But I am introducing this legislation today because this issue is extremely important to all of those who are being victimized by the bankruptcy courts. I hope that early next year my colleagues will join me in this effort to protect the miners, retired miners, and families who are simply seeking the benefits they were promised in exchange for years of hard work.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3005. A bill to allow State Homeland Security Program grant funds to be used to pay costs associated with the attendance of part-time and volunteer first responders at terrorism response courses approved by the Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Stabenow-Craig Rural and Part-time Firefighter Training Fairness Act. This bill would ensure that our part-time and rural firefighters are not being treated as second

class citizens. I want to thank Senator CRAIG for his hard work on this very important issue, and Senators LEVIN, CRAPO, ROCKEFELLER, and JEFFORDS for their support of this bill.

Mr. President, many part-time and volunteer firefighters in rural and small communities across the country are not attending Office of Domestic Preparedness-approved terrorism response training courses because Federal guidelines do not allow them to be reimbursed for the time they are away from their full-time jobs. Our bill would simply direct the ODP to allow part-time and volunteer first responders, to receive a reasonable stipend when they participate in ODP-approved terrorism response courses.

The Federal Government should not penalize rural and small communities and their firefighters from receiving training necessary to respond to a terrorist attack. In several counties in northern lower Michigan, State Homeland Security Grant funds sit unused because their fire departments are composed entirely of volunteer or part-time firefighters. Last year, the State of Michigan set aside \$9 million in Homeland Security grants to prepare firefighters, including ODP training courses, to respond to terrorist incidents. However, this grant money is being underutilized since 72 percent of the firefighters in Michigan are volunteer or part-time and are not attending terrorism response training sessions.

All firefighters need the capability to respond to all types of emergencies. When Americans call 9-1-1, the fire department doesn't send only their full-time firefighters, they send everyone regardless of their status. Most part-time firefighters in rural areas hold full-time jobs in addition to serving and protecting their communities. It is unreasonable to expect them to take leave from their regular jobs, and forgo their pay from their full-time jobs, to attend terrorism response training courses that include incident command, civil action management, and radiological response.

Mr. President, many of our small, rural communities face the same homeland security challenges as larger cities with more resources. For example, Michigan has a long international border with Canada, and many of these small and rural border communities rely on part-time and volunteer firefighters. These responders must be capable of protecting these borders against the same terrorist threats that urban areas face. When there is an accident in the future and, God forbid, if there is a terrorist attack, we're not going to send only full-time firefighters to save people's lives.

This bill was included as a bipartisan amendment to the Senate version of the fiscal year 2005 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, but was removed by the House Republican leadership in conference. This issue is too important for Congress to ignore, and I am going to keep fighting

until our volunteer and part-time firefighters are treated fairly and receive the terrorism response training they need.

Mr. President, I'm pleased to note that the change in Federal guidelines this bill requires will not cost the Government any funding. It will not affect the distribution of State Homeland Security grants. It will just enable communities that have been awarded these grants to use them to pay their firefighters a reasonable stipend when they leave their full-time jobs and attend these terrorism response course. This is a matter of fairness to ensure that those that we rely on to respond to emergencies have the training they need.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3005

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural and Part-time Firefighter Training Fairness Act".

SEC. 2. STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated to the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness for grants to States and local governments may be used by such States and local governments to provide a reasonable stipend to part-time and volunteer first responders who are not otherwise compensated for travel to or participation in terrorism response courses approved by the Office for Domestic Preparedness, which stipend shall not be considered compensation for purposes of rendering such first responder an employee under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 470—HONORING THE LIFE OF ASTRONAUT LEROY GORDON COOPER, JR.

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 470

Whereas Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., was born on March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as a colonel in the United States Air Force and was selected as one of the original Project Mercury astronauts in April of 1959;

Whereas the 7 original Project Mercury astronauts helped to inspire generations of scientists and engineers;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper piloted the Faith 7 spacecraft on the final operational mission of Project Mercury from May 15 to May 16, 1963, he traveled a total of 546,167 statute miles and became the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper served as command pilot on the 8-day 120-orbit Gemini 5 mission that began on August 21, 1965, he and pilot Charles Conrad established a new

space endurance record by traveling a distance of 3,312,993 miles in an elapsed time of 190 hours and 56 minutes;

Whereas Gordon Cooper was the first man to go into space for a second time;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as backup command pilot for the Gemini 12 mission and as backup commander for the Apollo 10 flight;

Whereas Gordon Cooper logged 222 hours in space and retired from the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1970;

Whereas the special honors Gordon Cooper received during his lifetime included the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal, and the John F. Kennedy Trophy; and

Whereas Gordon Cooper passed away at his home in Ventura, California, on October 4, 2004, at the age of 77; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, many people may not be aware of Oklahoma's significant history in aviation, or that I am the only commercially licensed pilot in the Senate and have a passion for flying.

Since 1910, beginning with Charles F. Willard who only flew a few hundred yards in a south Oklahoma City field, Oklahomans have been flying.

The following year, Clyde Cessna, an automobile dealer from Enid who later formed the Cessna Aircraft Company, flew his mono-wing airplane near Jet, OK.

Such early flights in Oklahoma continued and in 1929 perhaps one of the most notable aviation events occurred in Waynoka, Oklahoma, where Charles Lindbergh stopped on the first transcontinental passenger air and rail service.

By 1931, Wiley Post, from Maysville, OK, gained international recognition when he flew around the world in a little over eight days. In July 1991, I had the honor of recreating Post's trip on its 60th Anniversary.

However, Oklahoma's aviation history does not stop there. On November 2, 1929, 26 licensed women pilots founded what was known as the Ninety-Nine Club, or the Ninety-Nines. It was called so at the suggestion of its first president, Amelia Earheart, because of the 117 licensed women pilots in America who were contacted about joining the club, only 99 actually joined. The South Central Section of the Ninety-Nine Club comprising several states including Oklahoma, has through the years, issued several publications and in 1962, Mary Lester of the Oklahoma Chapter created a new version of the Club's publication, the Ninety-Nine News. Currently, the Ninety-Nine Club is an international organization of licensed women pilots from 35 countries, with its international headquarters at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City.

Today I rise to introduce a resolution to honor the life and work of another Oklahoman in this long line of aviation who served our country by fearlessly dedicating his life to space travel and exploration.

Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., frequently called "Gordo", who passed away at his home on October 4, was often known as the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space. He was born in Shawnee, OK on March 6, 1927 and joined the Marines during World War II. He then transferred to the Air Force in 1949 and graduated from the Air Force Institute of Technology with a degree in aeronautical engineering in 1956.

After graduating, Cooper became attracted to the space program as an elite test pilot for the Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California. During his career, he logged more than 7,000 hours of flying, including 4,000 hours flying jets. He also flew commercial and general aviation planes and helicopters.

Cooper seemed to be born in the right place at the right time—with the right abilities. In 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, announced its new endeavor, Project Mercury, with three goals in mind: to place a spacecraft carrying a person into orbital flight around the Earth, to investigate a person's performance capabilities and his/her ability to function in space, and to recover the person and spacecraft safely. NASA began searching for people, especially military test pilots, who were willing and capable of enduring such a dangerous mission. They focused on finding military test pilots because they seemed to experience similar conditions to those of space.

On April 1, 1959, it was announced that Cooper was chosen, along with Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Walter Schirra, Jr., and Deke Slayton not only as one of the seven Project Mercury astronauts, but as one of America's first astronauts. These seven men made history with this project as they laid the groundwork for future space flights.

On May 15 and 16, 1963, Cooper piloted *Faith 7*, the flight that ended the operational phase of Project Mercury. During this mission, he orbited the Earth 22 times and logged more time in space than all previous five Mercury astronauts combined. He also became known as the first American astronaut to sleep in orbit, as well as on the launch pad.

Shortly thereafter, Cooper received the NASA Distinguished Service Medal from President John F. Kennedy at a White House ceremony.

In August 1965, Cooper commanded the 8 day *Gemini 5* mission with Charles Conrad. On this mission, Cooper set a new space endurance record, covering 120 revolutions and 3,312,993 miles in 190 hours, 56 minutes and 3 seconds and became the first man to make a second orbital flight.

Overall, during his two space flights, Cooper logged 225 hours, 15 minutes and 3 seconds. He also served as backup command pilot for *Gemini 12* and backup commander for *Apollo X*. He

was the last American astronaut to orbit the Earth for an entire orbit by himself.

After receiving an honorary Doctorate of Science degree from Oklahoma City University in 1967, Cooper retired from the Air Force and NASA as a colonel in 1970. However, his involvement with space did not end after his retirement. He served as a consultant to several companies related to aerospace, electronics, and energy fields, and was vice president for research and development for Walt Disney Enterprises, Inc. Cooper also devoted part of his life to studying UFOs, and wrote *Leap of Faith* based on his experiences as a pilot and astronaut.

Even though we have lost this great American hero, his legacy and passion for exploring space live on through continued space ventures such as the Ansari X Prize. The famed \$10 million X Prize was recently awarded to the team of *SpaceShipOne*, whose pilot, Brian Binnie, broke an August 22, 1963 altitude record by going 69.6 miles above Earth's surface, ironically, on October 4, the same day of Cooper's passing.

I am pleased that my good friend and colleague Congressman CASS BALLENGER has led the way in honoring the life and service of this great space pioneer. I know that Mr. BALLENGER shares my passion of aviation and space exploration and hope that we will continue to build on the progress and sacrifice made by men like Gordon Cooper.

SENATE RESOLUTION 471—AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. DURBIN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 471

Resolved, That there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of tributes and other related materials concerning the Honorable Paul Simon, late a Senator from the State of Illinois.

SENATE RESOLUTION 472—TO HONOR THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROSE REVOLUTION

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 472

Whereas, on November 23, 2004, the people of Georgia will celebrate the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution, the peaceful and bloodless protests that followed parliamentary elections deemed to be fraudulent;

Whereas following the resignation of President Eduard Shevardnadze, Interim President Nino Burdzhnashvili worked diligently to restore order and to prepare Georgia for a new Presidential election;

Whereas after a free, fair, and democratic election was held, Mikheil Saakashvili was

sworn into office on January 25, 2004, as President of Georgia;

Whereas President Saakashvili visited the United States Congress earlier this year and delivered a strong message of peace, stability, democracy, political reform, and economic opportunity;

Whereas Georgia is a small but strategically situated country located in the Caucasus, and is of additional interest to the United States because of the oil and gas pipelines now being constructed from Baku, Azerbaijan to the port of Ceyhan, Turkey;

Whereas Georgia has also become a key player in the global war on terrorism by combating members of al Qaeda and other Muslim terrorist organizations, denying them sanctuary in remote areas such as the Pankisi Gorge, and working with the United States to help train border guards;

Whereas Georgia has recently increased its commitment of troops in Iraq and its contributions to help build peace and democracy in Afghanistan and Kosovo;

Whereas the United States supports Georgia's efforts to peacefully reestablish government control, security, and political stability in regions such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the United States congratulates the Government of Georgia on the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Adjara and welcomes the restoration of democracy and political stability in that region; and

Whereas the United States supports representative democracy, political stability, economic growth, and peace in Georgia and throughout the Caucasus region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution, the peaceful and bloodless protests that followed parliamentary elections deemed to be fraudulent, and for their commitment to democracy, peace, stability, and economic opportunity;

(2) commends President Mikheil Saakashvili for his vision of, and commitment to, a peaceful and democratic Georgia, the rule of law, an open market economy, regional cooperation, and closer integration into western institutions;

(3) supports the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and democratic government of Georgia; and

(4) supports continued assistance to the people and Government of Georgia to help them consolidate the democratic process in their country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 473—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO ENSURE A DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND FAIR ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 21, 2004

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 473

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the 2004 Presidential election in Ukraine and of a genuinely democratic political system are prerequisites for that country's full integration into the Western community of nations as an equal member, including into organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including provisions of the Copenhagen Document;

Whereas the election of Ukraine's next President will provide an unambiguous test of the extent of the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;

Whereas the second round of the Presidential election takes place against the backdrop of past elections and improprieties in the first round of the election, which did not fully meet international standards;

Whereas it is the duty of government and public authorities of Ukraine at all levels to act in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations governing election procedures, and to ensure free and fair elections throughout the entire country, including preventing activities aimed at undermining the free exercise of political rights;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which administrative action, violence, intimidation, or detention do not hinder the parties, political associations, and the candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to the citizenry, including organizing supporters, conducting public meetings and events throughout the country, and enjoying unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote and the right to seek and acquire information upon which to make an informed vote, free from intimidation, undue influence, attempts at vote buying, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections, multiparty representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote counting in all areas of the country;

Whereas increasing control and manipulation of the media by national and local officials and others acting at their behest raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Ukrainian authorities to free and fair elections;

Whereas efforts by the national authorities in Ukraine to limit access to international broadcasting, including Radio Liberty and the Voice of America, represent an unacceptable infringement on the right of the Ukrainian people to independent information;

Whereas efforts by national and local officials of Ukraine and others acting at their behest to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair political campaign have taken place in Donetsk, Sumy, and elsewhere in Ukraine without condemnation or remedial action by the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas numerous substantial irregularities have taken place in recent Ukrainian

parliamentary by-elections in the Donetsk region and in mayoral elections in Mukacheve, Romny, and Krasnyi Luch;

Whereas intimidation, violence, and fraud during the April 18, 2004, mayoral election in Mukacheve, Ukraine, represent a deliberate attack on the democratic process;

Whereas in the period leading to the first round of the Presidential election, the government power structures used state resources such as schools, state factories, hospitals, and public transport systems to force students, state workers, and citizens who rely on state services for their livelihood to campaign against their will for the government-backed candidate;

Whereas there was notable partisan engagement of security services, military, and local police in support of the government-backed candidate;

Whereas there was a failure of national and local state-owned and private electronic media to provide impartial and fair coverage of, or access to, opposition candidates;

Whereas some election commission members affiliated with opposition candidates were dismissed from their duties just prior to election day;

Whereas there was collaboration with a foreign government to allow a foreign President to appear in Ukraine and express his opinions on one of the candidates just days before election day, in an effort to influence the vote, and a military parade, which was held in Kyiv 3 days prior to the election, was clearly an effort to intimidate voters; and

Whereas in the first round of the Presidential election in Ukraine that occurred on October 31, 2004, international observers noted fraud and other significant problems, including poorly maintained voter lists, which resulted in people being denied their right to vote, as well as many additional names on voter rolls for which no accounting could be made, prevalent interference by unauthorized persons into the electoral process, and credible reports of bussing of voters among oblasts and polling stations for the purpose of multiple voting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine since the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991;

(2) recognizes that a precondition for the full integration of Ukraine into the Western community of nations, including as an equal member in institutions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system;

(3) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Ukraine;

(4) urges the Government of Ukraine to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, to organize and conduct public events, and to exercise these and other rights free from intimidation or harassment by local or national officials or others acting at their behest;

(5) urges the Government of Ukraine to meet its Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratic elections and to address issues previously identified by the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in its final reports on the 2002 parliamentary elections and the 1999 Presidential elections, such as illegal interference by public authorities in the campaign and a high degree of bias in the media;

(6) urges the Ukrainian authorities to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the second round of the 2004 Presidential election;

(B) free access for Ukrainian and international election observers;

(C) multiparty representation on all election commissions;

(D) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

(E) freedom of candidates, members of opposition parties, and independent media organizations from intimidation or harassment by government officials at all levels, including selective tax audits and other regulatory procedures, and in the case of media, license revocations, and libel suits;

(F) a transparent process for complaint and appeals through electoral commissions and within the court system that provides timely and effective remedies;

(G) vigorous prosecution of any individual or organization responsible for violations of election laws or regulations, including the application of appropriate administrative or criminal penalties;

(H) remedies to all improprieties reported in the first round of the Presidential election in Ukraine, including—

(i) the replacement at a polling station of any Territorial Election Commission member found to have engaged in fraud;

(ii) a complete review of voter lists in each polling station in order to correct inaccuracies;

(iii) equal time on state media and equal access to private media for the two runoff candidates; and

(iv) immediate prosecution of individuals who have violated the election law;

(7) further calls upon the Government of Ukraine to guarantee election monitors from the ODIHR, other participating states of the OSCE, Ukrainian political parties, representatives of candidates, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process, including unimpeded access to public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints;

(8) urges the President to fully employ the diplomatic and other resources of the Government of the United States to encourage the Government of Ukraine to ensure that the election laws and procedures of Ukraine are faithfully adhered to by all local and national officials, by others acting at their behest, and by all candidates and parties, during and subsequent to the Presidential campaign and election-day voting;

(9) strongly encourages the President to clearly communicate to the Government of Ukraine, to all parties and candidates in Ukraine, and to the people of Ukraine the high importance attached by the Government of the United States to this Presidential campaign as a central factor in determining the future relationship between the two countries;

(10) strongly encourages the President to consider visa bans and other targeted sanctions on those responsible for encouraging or participating in any efforts to improperly influence the outcome of the election, whether through direct or indirect involvement; and

(11) pledges its enduring support and assistance to the people of Ukraine for the establishment of a fully free and open democratic system, the creation of a prosperous free market economy, the establishment of a secure independence and freedom from coercion, and Ukraine's assumption of its right-

ful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 147—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, IN PARTICULAR THE PERIODIC NATIONAL AND WORLD BOY SCOUT JAMBOREES

Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 147

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and received a Federal charter on June 15, 1916, which is codified as chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas section 30902 of title 36, United States Code, states that it is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues;

Whereas, since the inception of the Boy Scouts of America, millions of Americans of every race, creed, and religion have participated in the Boy Scouts, and the Boy Scouts currently uses more than 1,200,000 adult volunteers to serve more than 4,700,000 young people;

Whereas the Department of Defense and members of the Armed Forces have a long history of supporting the activities of the Boy Scouts of America and individual Boy Scout troops in the United States, and section 2606 of title 10, United States Code, authorizes the Department of Defense to cooperate with and assist the Boy Scouts of America in establishing and providing facilities and services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and civilian employees of the Department of Defense and their dependents, at locations outside the United States;

Whereas sections 4682, 7541, and 9682 of title 10, United States Code, authorize the Department of Defense to sell, and in certain cases donate, obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts of America to support its activities; and

Whereas, under section 2554 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense is authorized to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to, the Boy Scouts of America to support national and world gatherings of Boy Scouts at events known as Boy Scout Jamborees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its long-standing statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 148—HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTION OF YOGI BHAJAN, A LEADER OF THE SIKHS, AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE SIKH COMMUNITY ON HIS PASSING

Mr. BINGAMAN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 148

Whereas the Sikh faith was founded in the northern section of the Republic of India in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, who preached tolerance and equality for all humans;

Whereas the Sikh faith began with a simple message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, all created by one creator who manifests existence through every religion;

Whereas the Sikh faith reaches out to people of all faiths and cultural backgrounds, encourages individuals to see beyond their differences, and to work together for world peace and harmony;

Whereas Siri Singh Sahib Bhai Sahib Harbajan Singh Khalsa Yogiji, known as Yogi Bhanjan to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, was born Harbajan Singh Puri on August 26, 1929, in India;

Whereas at age 8, Yogi Bhanjan began yogic training, and 8 years later was proclaimed by his teacher to be a master of Kundalini Yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, yoga postures, sound, chanting, and meditation;

Whereas during the turmoil over the partition between Pakistan and India in 1947, at the age of 18, Yogi Bhanjan led his village of 7,000 people 325 miles on foot to safety in New Delhi, India, from what is now Lahore, Pakistan;

Whereas Yogi Bhanjan, before emigrating to North America in 1968, served the Government of India faithfully through both civil and military service;

Whereas when Yogi Bhanjan visited the United States in 1968, he recognized immediately that the experience of higher consciousness that many young people were attempting to find through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini Yoga, and in response, he began teaching Kundalini Yoga publicly, thereby breaking the centuries-old tradition of secrecy surrounding it;

Whereas in 1969, Yogi Bhanjan founded "Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO)", a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation dedicated to serving humanity, improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on nutrition and health, interpersonal relations, child rearing, and human behavior;

Whereas under the direction and guidance of Yogi Bhanjan, 3HO expanded to 300 centers in 35 countries;

Whereas in 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhanjan the title of Siri Singh Sahib, which made him the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere, and subsequently the Sikh seat of religious authority gave him responsibility to create a Sikh ministry in the West;

Whereas in 1971, Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated in the State of California and recognized as a tax-exempt religious organization by the United States, and in 1972, Yogi Bhanjan founded the ashram Sikh Dharma in Española, New Mexico;

Whereas in 1973, Yogi Bhanan founded “3HO SuperHealth”, a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom of the East with modern technology of the West;

Whereas in June 1985, Yogi Bhanan established the first “International Peace Prayer Day Celebrations” in New Mexico, which still draws thousands of participants annually;

Whereas Yogi Bhanan traveled the world calling for world peace and religious unity at meetings with leaders such as Pope Paul VI; Pope John Paul II; His Holiness the Dalai Lama; the President of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mikhail Gorbachev; and two Archbishops of Canterbury;

Whereas Yogi Bhanan wrote 30 books and inspired the publication of 200 other books through his teachings, founded a drug rehabilitation program, and inspired the founding of several businesses;

Whereas Sikhs and students across the world testify that Yogi Bhanan exhibited dignity, divinity, grace, commitment, courage, kindness, compassion, tolerance, wisdom, and understanding;

Whereas Yogi Bhanan taught that in times of joy and sorrow members of the community should come together and be at one with each other; and

Whereas before his passing on October 6, 2004, Yogi Bhanan requested that his passing be a time of celebration of his going home: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes that the teachings of Yogi Bhanan about Sikhism and yoga, and the businesses formed under his inspiration, improved the personal, political, spiritual, and professional relations between citizens of the United States and the citizens of India;

(2) recognizes the legendary compassion, wisdom, kindness, and courage of Yogi Bhanan, and his wealth of accomplishments on behalf of the Sikh community; and

(3) extends its condolences to Inderjit Kaur, the wife of Yogi Bhanan, his 3 children and 5 grandchildren, and to Sikh and “Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO)” communities around the Nation and the world upon the death on October 6, 2004, of Yogi Bhanan, an individual who was a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace, and a compassionate human being.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues, Senators DOMENICI and CORNYN, to introduce a resolution honoring the life of Yogi Bhanan. Yogi Bhanan, the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the West, died in Española, NM, on October 6, 2004, at the age of 75. Born Harbhajan Singh Puri on August 26, 1929, in Northern India, now Pakistan, he began yogic training at age 8 and was proclaimed a master of Kundalini Yoga by age 16. After the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, his family migrated to New Delhi, India, where he continued his education. After graduating from Punjab University in economics, he worked for India’s Internal Revenue Service and later became head of customs at the New Delhi Airport.

Yogi Bhanan introduced thousands around the world to Sikhism, a religion that carries the message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, and reaches out to people of all backgrounds to work together for

world peace. When he came to North America in 1968, he recognized that the experience sought by many young people through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini Yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, chanting, and meditation among other components. Breaking the centuries old tradition of secrecy surrounding Kundalini Yoga, he began teaching it publicly. Soon after, he founded the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO), a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation with 300 centers in 35 countries, dedicated to improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on matters of health and heart. He later founded 3HO SuperHealth, a successful drug rehabilitation program, blending ancient yogic wisdom of the East with the modern technology of the West. SuperHealth was accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization and received its highest commendation. In 1973 it distinguished itself as being in the top 10 percent of all treatment programs throughout the United States. In 1989 Yogi Bhanan met with then President Mikhail Gorbachev and established addiction treatment programs in Russia based on the 3HO SuperHealth model. Currently a pilot project of SuperHealth is being formed by the Punjab State Government in India. He taught Yoga in Toronto and Los Angeles and finally founded a Sikh Dharma community in Española, NM. In 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhanan the title of chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere. About 250,000 Sikhs now reside across the United States, including a community of about 500 families in Northern New Mexico.

Yogi Bhanan wrote 30 books and inspired 200 more through his teaching, and inspired the founding of several businesses, including Akal Security Inc. He had an inclusive view of the world’s major religions and considered all of them valid. Throughout his lifetime, he traveled the world and met with world leaders such as Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama to discuss world peace and religious unity. In June 1985, Yogi Bhanan established the first International Peace Prayer Day Celebration in New Mexico that still draws thousands of participants annually.

After the events of 9/11/01, Yogi Bhanan reached out to Sikhs across America, encouraging and helping them to educate their fellow citizens about Sikhs, and to work with law enforcement and community leaders to help them protect Sikh populations. His efforts have helped contribute to the opening of some major law enforcement agencies to Sikh employees, including the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. Yogi Bhanan established links to human rights advocates nationwide, working to make sure that

the issue of Sikh identity is understood and respected. When Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in Phoenix 5 days after 9/11 because of his beard and turban, Yogi Bhanan worked with community and government leaders in Arizona to help raise awareness about the Sikh community there.

Yogi Bhanan is survived by his wife, Inderjit Kaur; two sons, Ranbir Singh and Kulbir Singh; a daughter, Kamaljit Kaur; and five grandchildren. He will be missed by his family, followers and his friends, and his contribution to the cause of world peace will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149—COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES FOR ITS DEDICATION AND HARD WORK DURING HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND JEANNE

Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. BREAU) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 149

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation’s citizens;

Whereas 4 hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, recently hit the State of Florida, an event which has not occurred since 4 hurricanes struck Texas in 1886;

Whereas Hurricane Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in 6 weeks to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted approximately 1,128 live television and radio interviews as well as 1,480 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the evacuation of millions of residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research’s Hurricane Research Division at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, Florida conducts the research needed to improve hurricane forecasts and went on flights in and around hurricanes to gather and improve data that goes into the National Hurricane Center’s forecasts, watches, and warnings to protect lives and property;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey developed, carefully monitors, and continues to improve the National Weather Service’s operational hurricane model used to determine where the storms are likely to go;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged over 300 hours of operational hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 739 hours of flight time through and around the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expeditiously after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas more than 7,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas the hurricane season continues through November, and all these employees continue tracking new tropical depressions approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center

at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(2) commends the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(3) commends the employees of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, especially the Hurricane Research Division;

(4) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

(5) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. on various nominations (names to be released later in week) at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on "FDA, Merck and Vioxx: Putting Patient Safety First?"

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending Committee matters, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on the Water Problems on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management support of the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in open session to receive testimony on the status

of financial management reform within the Department of Defense and the individual services.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 2 p.m. on the Science Behind Pornography Addiction.

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

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 149, introduced earlier today by Senator HOLLINGS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 149) commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 149) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 149

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 4 hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, recently hit the State of Florida, an event which has not occurred since 4 hurricanes struck Texas in 1886;

Whereas Hurricane Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in 6 weeks to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted approximately 1,128 live television and radio interviews as