

Whereas the greatness of the United States is reflected in the contributions of African Americans in all walks of life throughout the history of the United States, including through—

(1) the writings of Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Alex Haley;

(2) the music of Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, and Duke Ellington;

(3) the resolve of athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, and Muhammed Ali;

(4) the vision of leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

(5) the bravery of those who stood on the front lines in the battle against oppression, such as Sojourner Truth and Rosa Parks;

Whereas the United States of America was conceived, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, as a new country dedicated to the proposition that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas United States citizens of all races demonstrate their commitment to that proposition through actions such as those of—

(1) Allan Pinkerton, Thomas Garrett, and the Rev. John Rankin, who served as conductors in the Underground Railroad;

(2) Harriet Beecher Stowe, who shined a light on the injustices of slavery;

(3) President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Senator Lyman Trumbull, who introduced the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(4) President Lyndon B. Johnson, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Senator Mike Mansfield, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, who fought to end segregation and the denial of civil rights to African Americans; and

(5) Americans of all races who marched side-by-side with African Americans during the civil rights movement;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has been an imperfect work in making progress towards those noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of a people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach them but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure before recommitting themselves to trying again;

Whereas, from the beginning of our Nation, the most conspicuous and persistent failure of United States citizens to reach those noble goals has been the enslavement of African Americans and the resulting racism;

Whereas the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction;

Whereas the Federal Government failed to put an end to slavery until the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865, repeatedly failed to enact a Federal anti-lynching law, and still struggles to deal with the evils of racism; and

Whereas the fact that 61 percent of African American 4th graders read at a below basic level and only 16 percent of native born African Americans have earned a Bachelor's degree, 50 percent of all new HIV cases are reported in African Americans, and the leading cause of death for African American males ages 15 to 34 is homicide, demonstrates that the United States continues to struggle to reach the high ideal of equal opportunity for all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the tragedies of slavery, lynching, and segregation, and condemns them as an infringement on human liberty

and equal opportunity so that they will stand forever as a reminder of what can happen when the citizens of the United States fail to live up to their noble goals;

(2) honors those United States citizens who—

(A) risked their lives during the time of slavery, lynching, and segregation in the Underground Railroad and in other efforts to assist fugitive slaves and other African Americans who might have been targets and victims of lynch mobs; and

(B) those who have stood beside African Americans in the fight for equal opportunity that continues to this day;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principles of the United States of America that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness";

(4) commits itself to addressing those situations in which the African American community struggles with disparities in education, health care, and other areas where the Federal Government can help improve conditions for all citizens of the United States; and

(5) calls on the citizens of the United States to observe Black History Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on S. Res. 380, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor, if I am not currently one.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2320

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2320) to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XXIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m., Friday, February 17. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that Senator SALAZAR then be recognized to deliver George Washington's Farewell Address, as under the previous order. I further

ask that following the address, the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair, and that when the Senate reconvenes, there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, by a vote of 96 to 3, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to proceed to the PATRIOT Act Amendments Act. I am disappointed that the other side of the aisle has forced us to spend these extra days, several extra days to get on to this bill.

Under the agreement that was reached last night, I want to remind my colleagues that a cloture vote on the bill will occur at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, and then we will have a vote on final passage at 10 a.m., March 1.

Tomorrow we will be in session, but there will be no rollcall votes. We have some outstanding legislative items to complete before the Presidents Day recess next week, so we will be in session and working tomorrow, Friday.

In Senate tradition tomorrow, we will also hear Washington's Farewell Address which will be read by Senator SALAZAR when the Senate convenes.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 17, 2006, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, February 16, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BERNADETTE MARY ALLEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

JANICE L. JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

STEVEN ALAN BROWNING, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

PATRICIA NEWTON MOLLER, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI.

JEANNE E. JACKSON, OF WYOMING, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO BURKINA FASO.

KRISTIE A. KENNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

ROBERT WEISBERG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

JANET ANN SANDERSON, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI.

JAMES D. MCGEE, OF FLORIDA, TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNION OF COMOROS.

GARY A. GRAPPO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN.

PATRICIA A. BUTENIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

DONALD T. BLISS, OF MARYLAND, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.