

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, September 19, 2006, I join with my colleague from Montana, Senator BAUCUS, in cosponsoring a resolution to designate September 24, 2006 as National Good Neighbor Day. I am proud to promote positive, meaningful friendships between citizens as part of a long-established tradition begun in 1971 by one of Montana's own citizens.

National Good Neighbor Day was started by Becky Mattson of Lakeside, MT with the intent of fostering a strong community of friendship and interaction between neighbors. This day also serves to facilitate communication between senior citizens and children. So often the communications between America's greatest generation and our youngest citizens is not as strong as it could be, yet, Ms. Mattson has found a way to help encourage that important dialogue.

Ms. Mattson began this tradition by doing what so many Montanans and Americans do: she wrote a letter to her Senator. That letter, to Senator Mike Mansfield, was met with great enthusiasm and as result, the National Good Neighbor Day has become an annual event, taking place on the fourth Sunday of September. Her efforts have been recognized by countless individuals, and have even been recognized through proclamations by three United States Presidents: Carter, Ford and Nixon. In addition, governors of many States have issued proclamations of Good Neighbor Day as well.

In the spirit of Ms. Mattson, I encourage my colleagues in the Senate and in our communities to reach out and be a good neighbor. I urge children to visit with senior citizens and to share their life experiences. The efforts of each person matters, not just on this day, but everyday, and will make our communities stronger. I am proud of Ms. Mattson, and thank her for her contribution in making us all good neighbors.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 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 resolution (S. Res. 577) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 577

Whereas our society has developed highly effective means of speedy communication around the world, but has failed to ensure meaningful communication among people living across the globe, or even across the street, from one another;

Whereas the endurance of human values and consideration for others are critical to the survival of civilization; and

Whereas being good neighbors to those around us is the first step toward human understanding: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 24, 2006, as "National Good Neighbor Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe National Good Neighbor Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair now lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 3525.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

S. 3525

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 3525) entitled "An Act to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes", do pass with amendments.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I applaud the Senate's unanimous approval of the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006. I am proud to have cosponsored this legislation with Senators GRASSLEY, ROCKEFELLER, HATCH, and SNOWE. The bill reauthorizes and improves the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program and the Child Welfare Services Act.

Every child deserves the chance to grow up in a safe and stable home, and we need to root out the problems that too often force children into the child welfare system, particularly the growing scourge of methamphetamine, or "meth," abuse. This bill makes some real improvements to our child welfare system and gets us closer to the goal of a thriving, secure childhood for every American youngster.

In Montana, meth is wreaking havoc on our child welfare system. Prevention and intervention are key to stopping the vicious cycle. That is why I have worked hard to secure these funds so we can be one step closer to stamping out meth in Montana and around the country.

In hearings held earlier this year, the Senate Finance Committee heard testimony that "over 65 percent of all foster care placements in Montana are directly attributable to drug use, and of those, meth is a primary factor 57 percent of the time," and that "meth use among residents of the seven Indian tribes in Montana is far in excess of epidemic proportion."

I am proud to have worked to include \$145 million in competitive grants to address the problem of methamphetamine and substance abuse related to child welfare and foster care. The funding is targeted to regional partnerships that include State agencies and will be available for family-based, comprehensive, long-term substance abuse treatment, early intervention and preventive services, and other innovative initiatives. I also have worked to insure that historically under-funded child

welfare programs for Indian tribes received increased monies to help combat new and challenging issues. I am grateful to Chairman GRASSLEY and others for recognizing these needs and working with me to enact these provisions.

The reauthorized Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program will also require States to provide additional information on efforts to get children into safe family situations and keep them there. Congress will receive actual spending data on adoption and postadoption services, efforts to keep families together, and efforts to provide permanent, safe, and loving homes for children.

In addition, the bill supports the training and hiring of more child welfare caseworkers so that more children in foster care will receive at least monthly visits. The bill requires States to achieve the standard of monthly social worker visits for 90 percent of foster children by 2011. This will help ensure proper monitoring of the development of children for whom the State has taken responsibility.

It also continues the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and creates a 3-year demonstration program to help provide mentoring services in underserved areas.

The child welfare system protects the most vulnerable people in our society. It provides a safe harbor for children. It looks out for children whose birth families, for one reason or another, have not been able to provide fertile soil in which to grow. Each year, almost 3,000 Montana children enter foster care. They come because of abuse. They come because of neglect. They come because of other serious difficulties in their families.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program supports efforts to rebuild families. And it helps to find permanency for kids when that proves impossible. This program is the largest dedicated source of Federal funds for services to children and families. Last year, Montana received a little over \$2 million from the program. These funds are critical to Montana's child welfare system, and this legislation is a pivotal opportunity to ensure adequate support for strong families.

I look forward to quick passage by the House so that we can begin to better safeguard the well-being of our children.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I support S. 3525, the Child and Family Services Improvement Act. This is a bill that will reauthorize the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, legislation that I have worked on since its creation in 1997.

I am proud to join my colleagues Senators GRASSLEY, BAUCUS, HATCH and SNOWE in support of this bill. Chairman GRASSLEY deserves our deep thanks and gratitude for real leadership on this legislation and a truly bipartisan process. The Finance Committee has a strong history of bipartisanship on child welfare and foster

care. And I should note that this bipartisanship is palpable at the staff level as well and the fine staff of the Finance Committee also deserve our thanks for making this agreement possible.

The children at risk of abuse and neglect in their own homes are among our most vulnerable children. Over the years, progress has been made to promote each child's safety, health and need for a permanent, safe home. But with 518,000 in foster care, there is clearly more work to be done for our children.

The 2006 Deficit Reduction Act included an additional \$40 million per year provided for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Our legislation will target this new money to clear needs for our child welfare system. One priority will be to create new competitive grants to support regional partnership to combat methamphetamine, "meth," or other drug abuses that are affecting the child welfare system. Meth is devastating areas in West Virginia and around our country. When law enforcement breaks up a home meth lab, child welfare workers are often needed on site to deal with the children as their parents are taken to jail. Such children have been exposed to toxins and are at risk of having been abused or neglected when their parents were high on meth. Substance abuse is a huge problem for families in the child welfare system, but there is hope that prevention and treatment can help. Family-based comprehensive long term treatment facilities are reporting some impressive results in helping children and families. Other innovative court projects and law enforcement programs are being developed. This bill invests real dollars to promote and evaluate the most effective programs.

The other priority of this legislation will be to make new investments to help states achieve what is considered the best practice of having monthly caseworker visits to 90 percent of the children in foster care. This standard helps improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children, and it is a worthy goal.

The bill will also reauthorize and expand the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program, created in 2002 as part of the reauthorization. The expansion is a 3-year pilot program to use vouchers as a new delivery mechanism for services in the hope of helping children in rural and underserved areas. Three States, West Virginia, Vermont and Utah, do not have any Mentoring Children of Prisoners grants, but there are children living there and in rural areas who need a mentor. Under the voucher program, qualified mentoring programs in local communities could get funding to serve such children. This is worth trying as a new model.

Earlier this year, I hosted a roundtable in Beckley, WV on adoption, foster care and child welfare. I met with a judge, local officials and parents involved in our system. I heard an inspiring story of a young man who was

adopted from foster care and has become a spokesperson for other children. Following this roundtable, it was very clear to me that we need to provide support and services to families in the system, and this new legislation should help.

For years, I have worked with my colleagues to try and improve our child welfare system and foster care. This bill is our next step forward. Its costs have been offset, and the priorities of combating meth and substance abuse, as well as more caseworker visits are goals that we all can rally to support. My hope is that this bill will provide the incentives and push for West Virginia and every state to do more for our most vulnerable children.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendments, with amendments; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5024) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment (No. 5025) was agreed to, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the House to the title of the Act, insert the following: "An Act to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes."

CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1035 and the Senate proceed to its immediate 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 (S. 1035) to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1035) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1035

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Code Talkers Recognition Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Expression of recognition.

TITLE I—SIOUX CODE TALKERS

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Congressional commemorative medal.

TITLE II—COMANCHE CODE TALKERS

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Congressional commemorative medal.

TITLE III—CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS

Sec. 301. Findings.

Sec. 302. Congressional commemorative medal.

TITLE IV—SAC AND FOX CODE TALKERS

Sec. 401. Findings.

Sec. 402. Congressional commemorative medal.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Definition of Indian tribe.

Sec. 502. Medals for other Code Talkers.

Sec. 503. Provisions applicable to all medals under this Act.

Sec. 504. Duplicate medals.

Sec. 505. Status as national medals.

Sec. 506. Funding.

SEC. 2. EXPRESSION OF RECOGNITION.

The purpose of the medals authorized by this Act is to express recognition by the United States and citizens of the United States of, and to honor, the Native American Code Talkers who distinguished themselves in performing highly successful communications operations of a unique type that greatly assisted in saving countless lives and in hastening the end of World War I and World War II.

TITLE I—SIOUX CODE TALKERS

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Sioux Indians used their native languages, Dakota, Lakota, and Dakota Sioux, as code during World War II;

(2) those individuals, who manned radio communications networks to advise of enemy actions, became known as the Sioux Code Talkers;

(3) under some of the heaviest combat action, the Code Talkers worked around the clock to provide information that saved the lives of many Americans in war theaters in the Pacific and Europe, such as the location of enemy troops and the number of enemy guns; and

(4) the Sioux Code Talkers were so successful that military commanders credit the code with saving the lives of countless American soldiers and being instrumental to the success of the United States in many battles during World War II.

SEC. 102. CONGRESSIONAL COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL.

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a commemorative medal of appropriate design, to each Sioux Code Talker, including—

- (1) Eddie Eagle Boy;
- (2) Simon Brokenleg;
- (3) Iver Crow Eagle, Sr.;
- (4) Edmund St. John;
- (5) Walter C. John;
- (6) John Bear King;
- (7) Phillip "Stoney" LaBlanc;
- (8) Baptiste Pumpkinseed;
- (9) Guy Rondell;
- (10) Charles Whitepipe; and