

table will be the greatest gift they can give this holiday season.

In Cleveland, one of the food distribution centers is Cooley Avenue Church of God. There, Pastor Richard Bolls hands out food to an elderly man, Norm. Of the food bank, Norm says:

At the end of the month I have just \$19 left after paying for my rent, my utilities, and my medicine. Normally I wouldn't get fruit and vegetables to eat. I consider this my ice cream.

It was 28 degrees and windy in Cleveland on Tuesday, colder today. At 11 o'clock in the morning, Christian, a native of the Mount Pleasant area of Cleveland, and her newborn stood in line for food at the Cleveland Food Bank, recognized as the No. 1 food bank in the country recently. Christian is a trained nurse's assistant. She has been searching for a job for 6 months since she had her baby, without luck. She notices the price of food she buys at the supermarket seems to rise every day, with the cost of caring for a newborn and the rise in food and fuel prices—heating and gasoline—Christian stood in line at the food bank Tuesday because she cannot afford to feed her family without some additional help.

Christian and Norm have heart-breaking stories, but their stories are not unique. More Americans are lining up at food banks this year. Most are working Ohioans and working people. Many are middle-class Americans, teetering on the edge. Additional funding for the emergency food stamp program is the most immediate Federal solution to the national food crisis.

This food bank crisis underscores the need to pass the farm bill. The farm bill is an agriculture bill, it is a hunger bill, it is an energy bill, it is a conservation bill. I applaud Chairman TOM HARKIN, the Senator from Iowa, for his leadership on this bill. This farm bill helps family farmers in Ohio and across the country by strengthening the farm safety net. For the first time ever, farmers will be able to enroll in a program that ensures against revenue instability, which for many farmers means either a bad yield or low prices. But either can be devastating.

With the right resources and the right incentives, farmers can help decrease our dependence on foreign oil and produce clean, sustainable, renewable energy.

This bill, the farm bill which we hope to pass before we leave this month, increases food stamp benefits and indexes the benefits to inflation. When the purchasing power of food stamps erodes, so does our progress against hunger. Food stamps today amount to about \$1 per person per meal. A mother with two children gets about \$9 in food stamps. That is the extent of the benefit. This farm bill, bipartisanly agreed to, will increase that.

We are the wealthiest country in the world, a caring and compassionate people. Families in our country, especially families who work hard and play by the rules, should never, ever go hungry.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—DESIGNATING MARCH 11, 2008, AS NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND MORTICIAN RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. KOHL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 390

Whereas the death of a family member, friend, or loved one is a devastating emotional event;

Whereas the memorialization and celebration of the decedent's life is the fabric of today's funeral service;

Whereas the family of the decedent has traditionally looked to funeral directors and morticians for consolation, strength, and guidance in the planning and implementation of a meaningful funeral ceremony;

Whereas funeral directors and morticians have dedicated their professional lives to serving the families of their communities in their times of need for generations with caring, compassion, and integrity;

Whereas these special men and women see their chosen profession as a higher calling, a sacred trust, in serving every family regardless of social standing, financial means, or time of day or day of the year, whenever a death occurs; and

Whereas on this special day, March 11, 2008, it would be appropriate to pay tribute to these funeral directors and morticians who, day in and day out, assist our Nation's families in their times of sadness and grief and help families mourn a death and celebrate a life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) takes this opportunity to pay the Nation's collective debt of gratitude for all the hours and all the times they have put someone ahead of themselves by serving the living while caring for the dead;

(2) urges every American of every walk of life to embrace each of these special individuals with heartfelt thanks for their dedication to their profession; and

(3) designates March 11, 2008, as "National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 391—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENGAGE IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PLANNED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND THE EXPECTATION THAT SUCH ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

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

S. RES. 391

Whereas the Republic of Georgia, which is an emerging democracy strategically located between Turkey and Russia, is an important political and geopolitical ally of the United States;

Whereas Georgia has made significant economic progress since 2000, with an economic growth rate that now exceeds 9 percent on an annual basis, and was named the top economic reformer in the world by the World Bank in 2006;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has been a leader in addressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program;

Whereas the Government of Georgia is working to become a candidate for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union;

Whereas the United States Government strongly supports the territorial integrity of Georgia and works actively toward a peaceful settlement of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia conflicts that might lead those regions toward greater autonomy within a unified Georgia;

Whereas the popular uprising in Georgia in 2003, the Rose Revolution, led to the establishment of democracy in that country;

Whereas opposition parties in Georgia engaged in demonstrations lasting several days beginning on November 2, 2007;

Whereas the President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, declared a state of emergency on November 7, 2007, after which the country's main opposition television station, Imedi, was closed;

Whereas Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza visited Georgia on November 10-11, 2007, and urged the Government of Georgia to reopen its private television stations, stating on Georgian state television: "A cornerstone of democracy is that all TV stations should remain open.";

Whereas President Saakashvili ended emergency rule on November 17, 2007, and announced presidential elections to be held on January 5, 2008;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has announced the reopening of the major opposition television station, Imedi;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has invited international election monitors to oversee the elections and thereby contribute to greater international recognition of the Georgian political process; and

Whereas freedom of the press, freedom of political expression, and a fair and impartial judiciary are among the most fundamental tenets of democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President should publicly state strong support for free and fair elections to be held in Georgia on January 5, 2008, in accordance with democratic principles; and

(2) the Government of Georgia, in order to restore faith in the democratic evolution of the country—

(A) must conduct free and fair elections, without government interference; and

(B) must permit all independent media to remain open and report on the elections.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk concerning the upcoming elections in the Republic of Georgia.

I am pleased that Senators BIDEN and DODD have agreed to cosponsor this legislation. Our goal is to express our strong hopes that the Republic of Georgia will return to the democratic path and embrace a free and fair election process. The United States was founded on the principles of personal rights and liberties, and we must champion a respect for democracy and human rights. This must include U.S. efforts to expand initiatives that promote freedom of the press and freedom of the media worldwide, which I believe underpin a nation's ability to respect human rights and practice democratic governance.

The international community has monitored closely developments over the last several weeks and months in the Republic of Georgia. I have visited Georgia on several occasions and consider myself a strong friend of the Georgian people.

In 2003 the population of Georgia rose up to overthrow their government. The Rose Revolution, as it was called, was truly an inspirational moment for supporters of democracy and freedom around the world. President Bush has rightly called Georgia and the government of President Saakashvili “a beacon for democracy.”

The Georgian President and a strong cabinet of reform-minded leaders have implemented an aggressive reform agenda with the goal of joining the European Union and the NATO Alliance. This independent course was a brave effort to emerge from the authoritarian shadows of the Soviet Union and reduce its dependency on Russia.

In addition to political reforms, Georgia has enjoyed remarkable economic progress. This year the country's economy is estimated to grow at a rate of 9 percent and continues to be an international leader in its economic reform efforts.

Unfortunately, this impressive record has been threatened by recent events that could undermine the progress that has been achieved in Georgia. I was dismayed to learn of the imposition of emergency rule and the government's action to assert control over private media companies. While the threats to Georgia are clear and extremely dangerous, the suspension of basic freedoms was a significant step backward on Tbilisi's path toward a market oriented, democratic country. It is important that the United States express our concerns about activities that may undermine the strong record that has been built by Georgia.

I was relieved to learn that emergency rule was ended on November 17 and that restrictions on private media will be lifted this week. I applaud the efforts by the Department of State to send a strong, clear and unequivocal message to the government in Tbilisi.

The Republic of Georgia must return to the path of democracy. President Saakashvili has an opportunity to take important steps in this direction by ensuring that all political parties have equal opportunity and access to media coverage and that the election process is free and fair. I recommend that the Government of Georgia reject the strategies of some countries, including most recently Russia, to frustrate and interfere with international election monitors, particularly those from the OSCE. Instead, Georgia should take additional steps to ensure that the OSCE and other constructive organizations who want to observe the elections can participate fully and as quickly as possible.

It is my goal that this resolution will serve as encouragement to President Saakashvili and his government to em-

brace democracy and ensure that the upcoming elections are the freest and fairest in Georgian history.

SENATE RESOLUTION 392—RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 392

Whereas Everglades National Park will celebrate its 60th anniversary on December 6, 2007;

Whereas when President Harry S Truman dedicated Everglades National Park on December 6, 1947, he stated: “Here is land, tranquil in its quiet beauty, serving not as the source of water, but as the last receiver of it. To its natural abundance we owe the spectacular plant and animal life that distinguishes this place from all others in our country”;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas gave the Everglades the name “River of Grass” stating, “There are no other Everglades in the world”;

Whereas Everglades National Park has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance, in recognition of its significance to all the people of the world;

Whereas the Everglades ecosystem encompasses 3,000,000 acres of wetlands and is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States featuring slow-moving freshwater that flows south from Lake Okeechobee through sawgrass and tree islands to the mangroves and seagrasses of Florida Bay;

Whereas Everglades National Park is home to rare and endangered species, such as the American crocodile, the Florida panther, and the Western Indian manatee and more than 350 species of birds, including the Great Egret, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Roseate Spoonbill;

Whereas the greater Everglades ecosystem is also an international center for business, agriculture, and tourism, with a rapidly growing population of varied ethnic, economic, and social values, all of which are dependent on a fully functioning ecosystem for an adequate freshwater supply, a healthy and sustainable economy, and overall quality of life;

Whereas Everglades National Park is the subject of the most extensive ecosystem restoration plan in the history of mankind, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; and

Whereas this restoration plan must succeed in order for the treasures of Everglades National Park to be passed on to our children and grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park; and

(2) dedicates itself to the success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF DECEMBER 5, 2007, AT WESTROADS MALL IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the fol-

lowing resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 393

Whereas, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, the worst mass slaying in Nebraska history occurred at Westroads Mall in Omaha;

Whereas lives were tragically lost, and others were wounded;

Whereas the brave men and women of the Omaha Police Department, Fire Department, and other emergency responders acted valiantly to save lives;

Whereas the people of Omaha have embraced those affected and will continue to offer support to their neighbors who have suffered from this tragedy; and

Whereas the community of Omaha will endure the aftereffects of this tragedy to emerge stronger than it was before: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the friends and families of those who lost their lives in the tragic shooting on December 5, 2007, at Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska: Gary Sharf of Lincoln, Nebraska, John McDonald of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Angie Schuster, Maggie Webb, Janet Jorgensen, Diane Trent, Gary Joy, and Beverly Flynn, all of Omaha;

(2) shares its prayers and best wishes for recovery to those who were wounded;

(3) extends its thanks to the first responders, police, and medical personnel who responded so quickly and decisively to provide aid and comfort to the victims; and

(4) stands with the people of Omaha as they begin the healing process in the aftermath of this terrible attack.

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH AND DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY 2007 AS NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 394

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research, the oldest and largest scientific cancer research organization in the United States, was founded on May 7, 1907, at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC, by a group of physicians and scientists interested in research to further the investigation into and spread new knowledge about cancer;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research and is the authoritative source of information and publications about advances in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer;

Whereas, since its founding, the American Association for Cancer Research has accelerated the growth and dissemination of new knowledge about cancer and the complexity of this disease to speed translation of new discoveries for the benefit of cancer patients, and has provided the information needed by elected officials to make informed decisions on public policy and sustained funding for cancer research;

Whereas partnerships with research scientists and the general public, survivors and patient advocates, philanthropic organizations, industry, and government have led to advanced breakthroughs, early detection