

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which our Nation has commemorated annually for the last 30 years, renews our commitment to those impacted by crime and the ways we can help them move forward. It is a time for remembrance and reflection, a moment to pause and honor victims, advocates, professionals, and volunteers.

This year's theme is ambitious but critical: "Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim." This calls on each of us to make sure that all victims get the help they need. Too many victims are still unable to receive the protections and services they deserve. Our efforts toward better safety and security now are integral to ensuring the safety and security of future generations.

On April 8, 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first Crime Victims' Rights Week. As a former prosecutor myself, I remember when the concept of victims' rights was practically unknown as few mechanisms for victim assistance and support even existed. With this first proclamation, President Reagan fulfilled an important and long-awaited call to put the concerns and rights of crime victims on the national agenda.

As President Reagan said in the first proclamation in 1981:

We need a renewed emphasis on and an enhanced sensitivity to the rights of victims. These rights should be a central concern of those who participate in the criminal justice system, and it is time all of us paid greater heed to the plight of victims.

This pioneering vision of President Reagan is one we continue to embrace today.

We are blessed to live in a nation of Good Samaritans, and we have achieved impressive strides toward helping crime victims get the services they need. But the task of preventing crime and healing its harmful effects remains a constant battle. Technology, globalization, and new types of criminal behavior have made the challenge before us more complex than ever before.

Our fight against crime in the 21st century will take strategic partnerships at the local, State, and national levels. It will rely on supportive, vigilant, and compassionate communities and individuals. Serving these individuals is more than an act of kindness; it helps make all of our homes, neighborhoods, and communities safer and stronger.

The resolution I have submitted with Senators LEAHY, SCHUMER, and GRASSLEY and which I expect to be passed today supports the mission and goals of this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge my colleagues to continue supporting those who have suffered crimes' effects and a renewed commitment toward reducing crime during this week, which this year will be observed the week of April 22.

In closing, we have come a long way since the days when crime victims had few rights and services. Yet it is also true that too many crimes are still

committed and too few are reported and that many victims struggle to overcome the lasting effects of crime. I am pleased that National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers us the opportunity each year to highlight the needs of crime survivors, recognize those who help them, and engage the public in the fight for victims' rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to 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.

#### RECOGNIZING K-I LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a thriving and successful business in Kentucky, the K-I Lumber & Building Materials company, headquartered in Louisville. K-I Lumber was founded in Louisville in 1932 by Mr. Walter M. Freeman, Sr., who was working as a lumber salesman for another company in the 1920s. As the Great Depression hit, the company he worked for began to decline, and this enterprising American decided that was the time to strike out on his own.

Mr. Freeman opened K-I Lumber's first headquarters in the Starks Building in downtown Louisville, and began selling carloads and truckloads of lumber to customers in Kentucky, Indiana, and surrounding States. By the early 1950s, he had purchased property for a distribution center and lumberyard. Walt's son, Walt Freeman, Jr., joined the business and began to expand it into Kentucky and Indiana's largest lumber company.

Walt, Jr. grew K-I Lumber until it had nine locations in three States and employed approximately 500 people, turning it into one of the largest independent lumber and building materials companies in the industry and earning it the Home Builders Association of Louisville Associate of the Year award until his passing in 2011.

Now led by the company's chairman, Sharon Freeman, and its president, Bob DeFarraro, K-I Lumber continues to serve as an example of the success Kentucky businesses can achieve with hard work, good leadership, and a passionate spirit. K-I Lumber recently

celebrated its current employees for their combined total of 2,074 years of service to the company and to its customers in Kentucky and the region.

Speaking of the company's custom millwork division, Walt Freeman, Jr. was fond of saying "If you can dream it, we can craft it." Whether it is custom millwork for one very special customer, or lumber needs for the largest distributors, K-I Lumber & Building Materials has survived and thrived over the past 80 years by crafting the desires of its customers, employees, and managers into reality. I know my colleagues join me in wishing many more years of success to this proud and locally owned Kentucky business.

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, amendment No. 1574 modifying the Congressional authorization for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, SHEP, is clearly supported in the Constitution. Article I of the Constitution grants Congress the power to authorize and appropriate funds and Article I, Section 8, specifically grants Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes." The power of Congress to fund the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project is unquestionably granted by the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has also expressly stated that "Commerce with foreign nations means commerce between citizens of the United States and citizens or subjects of foreign governments. It means trade, and it means intercourse. It means commercial intercourse between nations, and parts of nations, in all its branches. It includes navigation, as the principal means by which foreign intercourse is affected."

The power to regulate, authorize, and appropriate funding for the ports comes from the authority to regulate navigation, arising from the Commerce Clause. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and by extension all harbor deepening projects, involves the general welfare of the United States. The Port of Savannah is a turnstile for cargo that impacts the United States as a whole. Congress is permitted to contribute to the project because it would improve the ability of the United States to receive larger ships entering through the Panama Canal. The Project will make national trade more competitive, while greatly impacting the State and the region. Trades, and its relations (ports), are fundamental extensions of the congressional power to regulate commerce. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project is a permissible exercise of Congress's authority to regulate commerce and contributes to the general welfare of the United States. The constitutional ability of Congress to provide funding for the program is unquestionable.

The Port of Savannah is the second largest container port on the East