

to the post office to pick up certified mail or parcels is more than a 30 minute round trip for these people—metro-Atlanta traffic notwithstanding.

Instead of recognizing the problems that the Postal Service's address designation was causing for these residents and trying to work out a mutually agreeable solution, the Postal Service has treated the requests of these residents in a manner unbecoming of an agency of the United States, and has acted in complete disregard for principle. In the name of efficient delivery of mail, the Postal Service has steadfastly refused the repeated requests of these residents to move their routes to a facility in Snellville, GA, which is located less than 3 miles from their homes. Postal Service representatives have even gone as far as to attack the motives of the residents requesting this change.

Mr. President, to give you an idea of the overwhelming community commitment to a change of address, approximately 5,000 Gwinnett County residents have been assigned a Lithonia address by the Postal Service, and my office received a petition from 4,024 of these residents requesting an address change.

When this matter first came to my attention, our office in conjunction with Congressman JOHN LINDER made several inquiries to the Postal Service, and at each point received conflicting responses. As we delved further into the matter, we learned that the Postal Service had not been completely open and honest in its responses.

Postal representatives have also refused to honor an offer to set up temporary postal facilities if a location could be found rent-free for 2 years. There appears to be some confusion among postal representatives on the exact details of the offer.

We understand and appreciate the Postal Service's mission of timely and efficient delivery of our mail, but this does not override the fact that the Postal Service is an agency of the U.S. Government and is subject to abide by the principles of government by the people and for the people as is outlined in our Constitution.

After almost a year of negotiations, the Postal Service has now made an offer to the residents to change the last line of their address to Annistown, GA, and to provide them with a new Zip Code. However, the Zip Code change has yet to be approved. Although this does not solve the problem of the proximity of a postal facility, it will help them in dealing with the difficulties that their address was creating. I therefore urge the swift approval of this Zip Code change by the Postal Service.

At a town meeting held to discuss the proposal, the Postal Service refused to officially attend to answer questions that the community had about the proposed change. However, after the meeting, we learned that Postal Service employees secretly attended the meeting and took notes.

Mr. President, it is my opinion that this type of behavior is completely inappropriate for the employees of an agency of the U.S. Government. The Postal Service had every opportunity to make its argument in a public forum, and chose not to do so.

This is the second entanglement I have had with the Postal Service where I have found their behavior to be an abomination to the citizens of our country. If the Postal Service continues to operate in such a manner, we must consider the need for further congressional oversight. ●

COMMENDING OPERATION SAIL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 64, a joint resolution to commend Operation Sail, introduced earlier today by Senators DODD, D'AMATO, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 64) to commend Operation Sail for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be deemed read three times; passed; the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; further, that any statements relating thereto appear at this point in the RECORD, as if read.

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

The preamble is agreed to.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 64) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. J. RES. 64

Whereas Operation Sail is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to building good will among nations and encouraging international camaraderie;

Whereas Operation Sail has represented and promoted the United States of America in the international tall ship community since 1964, organizing and participating in numerous tall ship events across the United States and around the world;

Whereas Operation Sail has worked in partnership with every American President since President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas Operation Sail has established a great tradition of celebrating major events and milestones in United States history with a gathering of the world's tall ships, and will continue this great tradition with a gathering of ships in New York Harbor, called OpSail 2000, to celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States of America and to welcome the new millennium;

Whereas President Clinton has endorsed OpSail 2000, as Presidents Kennedy, Carter,

Reagan, and Bush have endorsed Operation Sail in previous endeavors;

Whereas OpSail 2000 promises to be the largest gathering in history of tall ships and other majestic vessels like those that have sailed the ocean for centuries;

Whereas in conjunction with OpSail 2000, the United States Navy will conduct an International Naval Review; and

Whereas the International Naval Review will include a naval aircraft carrier as a symbol of the international good will of the United States of America; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) Operation Sail is commended for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship;

(2) all Americans and citizens of nations around the world are encouraged to join in the celebration of the 224th birthday of the United States of America and the international camaraderie that Operation Sail and the International Naval Review will foster; and

(3) Operation Sail is encouraged to continue into the next millennium to represent and promote the United States of America in the international tall ship community, and to continue organizing and participating in tall ship events across the United States and around the world.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item 515, Senate Resolution 275.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 275) to express the sense of the Senate concerning Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in bold face brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. RES. 275

Whereas, prior to 1979, Afghanistan was a peaceful, united country;

Whereas, the successful fight of brave men and women of Afghanistan resisting the Soviet invasion and occupation of 1979–1989 was a significant element in the dissolution of the Soviet empire;

Whereas the dissolution of the Soviet empire brought freedom to the nations of central and eastern Europe as well as to the nations of central Asia;

Whereas although many years after the Soviet Union withdrawal, Afghanistan does not enjoy the peace it has earned;

Whereas the United Nations can play a unique and important role in bringing an end to the conflict in Afghanistan; and