

CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to establish legal standards and procedures for the fair, prompt, inexpensive, and efficient resolution of personal injury claims arising out of asbestos exposure, and for other purposes.

S. 841

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of outpatient prescription drugs under the medicare program.

S. 863

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 863, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for medicare coverage of all certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise existing regulations concerning the conditions of participation for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers under the medicare program relating to certified registered nurse anesthetists' services to make the regulations consistent with State supervision requirements.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a program under which long-term care insurance is made available to Federal employees and annuitants, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 31—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITARIAN SAFEGUARDS THESE TREATIES PROVIDE IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 31

Whereas the Geneva Conventions of 1949 set basic humane standards of behavior during armed conflict, and are the major written source of international humanitarian law;

Whereas these Conventions prescribe humane treatment for civilian populations,

wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel, and prisoners of war during armed conflict;

Whereas these Conventions recognize the International Committee of the Red Cross as an independent and neutral organization whose humanitarian mission is to protect and assist civilians, prisoners of war, and other victims of armed conflict;

Whereas "the red cross in a field of white" is not an ordinary organizational symbol, but one to which the international community has granted the ability to impose restraint during war and to protect human life;

Whereas the American Red Cross and its sister national societies are members of a world-wide organization rooted in the provisions of international humanitarian law and dedicated to the promulgation of its principles, among which are the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

Whereas the international programs of the American Red Cross bring relief from natural and manmade disasters abroad, contribute to the development of nonprofit relief organizations abroad, and include the teaching of international humanitarian law throughout the United States;

Whereas many domestic programs of the Red Cross in health and safety, disaster, blood, youth, and service to the members of the Armed Forces of the United States grew out of a response to armed conflict;

Whereas, thanks to the efforts of Clara Barton and Frederick Douglass, the United States ratified in 1882 the first convention for the amelioration of the condition of wounded and sick members of the armed forces in the field;

Whereas in 1955 the United States ratified the Geneva Conventions of 1949; and

Whereas the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are among the most universally ratified treaties in the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

The Congress—

(1) recognizes the historic and humanitarian significance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the signing of these treaties;

(2) exhorts combatants everywhere to respect the red cross emblem in order to protect innocent and vulnerable populations on every side of conflicts;

(3) commends the International Committee of the Red Cross and the more than 175 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, including the American Red Cross, on their continuing work in providing relief and assistance to the victims of war as prescribed by these Conventions;

(4) applauds the Promise of Humanity gathering organized by the American Red Cross in 1999 in Washington, D.C., as an important reminder of our responsibilities to educate future generations about the principles of international humanitarian law;

(5) commends the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the more than 175 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, including the American Red Cross, for their work in educating the world's citizens about the humanitarian principles of international humanitarian law as embodied in the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

(6) invites the American Red Cross during this anniversary year to assist Congress in educating its Members and staff about the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

(7) supports the anniversary theme of the International Committee of the Red Cross that "Even War Has Limits"; and

(8) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the

Geneva Conventions of 1949 and recognizing the Conventions themselves as critically important instruments for protecting human dignity in times of armed conflict and limiting the savagery of war.

SEC. 2. GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 DEFINED.

In this concurrent resolution, the term "Geneva Conventions of 1949" means the following conventions, done at Geneva in 1949:

(1) Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (6 UST 3114).

(2) Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea (6 UST 3217).

(3) Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (6 UST 3316).

(4) Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (6 UST 3516).

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined today by Senator GORDON SMITH as I submit a concurrent resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Fifty years ago the United States joined 187 nations in establishing in international law the four articles of the modern Geneva Convention. These articles are the pillars of international law regarding the treatment of uniformed sick and wounded, prisoners of war, and civilians in times of armed conflict. Their existence serves to constantly remind us of our responsibility to treat all victims of war with the dignity each of us deserves.

These Conventions recognize the International Committee of the Red Cross as an independent and neutral organization whose humanitarian mission is to protest and assist the victims of armed conflict. The International Red Cross is supported, in turn, by national societies such as the American Red Cross and the many other Red Cross and Red Crescent national agencies. Through the years, these organizations have worked tirelessly to bring relief to the suffering around the world whether due to natural disaster or human conflict. Their dedication and compassion have touched the lives of millions of people in all countries and are today at work in the Balkans, Africa, South America, and, tragically, in our own state of Oklahoma in response to the recent massive tornado.

I ask your support for this resolution that commemorates mankind's first major step to codify into international law the respect and dignity that we must foster for each other. The four articles of the Geneva Convention and the formation of the organizations flying the Red Cross and Red Crescent stand as milestones in humanity's progress towards a more civilized world. With this resolution we recognize the historic and humanitarian significance of the Conventions and commend the Red Cross and Red Crescent agencies worldwide for their unflagging efforts to protect the principles of international humanitarian law.